TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
1	Mr. Stuart.. ..	198	Aug. 20, 1877	Reported release of Greek prisoners at Constantinople. M. Tricoupi's views respecting.	1
2	„ „ ..	199	21,	Has informed M. Tricoupi that his explanation of Lord Derby's despatch was correct	2
3	Mr. Layard . ..	983	24,	Massacre of Mussulmans at Aflahanli. Report on the battle at Kyzanlik ..	2
4	„ „ ..	984	24,	Massacre of Mussulmans near Kyzanlik. From Suleiman Pasha	3
5	„ „ ..	985	24,	Sultan's reception of Armenian Patriarch	5
6	Mr. Adams ..	707 Confidential	30,	Servia. French Government have strongly urged not to go to war	5
7	Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic	30,	Montenegrin atrocities	5
8	Mr. Layard ..	380 Telegraphic	31,	Battle of Karahassan. Repulse of Russians by Mehemet Ali Pasha. From Colonel Lennox	6
9	„ „ ..	381 Telegraphic	31,	Mehemet Ali Pasha's victory. From Consul Blunt	6
10	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	Sept 1,	Prince Charles' command. From Grand Duke Nicholas	6
11	Lieut-Col. Mansfield..	Telegraphic Secret	1,	Flag of truce sent by Mehemet Ali Pasha to Grand Duke Nicholas. From Colonel Wellesley	6
12	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	1,	Prince Charles' command .. .	7
13	Sir A. Buchanan ..	Telegraphic	1,	Servia. Baron Calice respecting attitude of Austria	7
14	Mr. Layard ..	382 Telegraphic	1,	Defeat of Russians at Pelichat by Osman Pasha. From the Porte ..	7
15	„ „ ..	383 Telegraphic	1,	Greek assurances. Porte asks if any have been given to Her Majesty's Government ..	7
16	To Mr. Adams ..	512	1,	Servia. Has asked French Ambassador if his Government are prepared to protest against going to war	7
17	To Mr. Layard ..	488	1,	Atrocities. Action of Her Majesty's Government and views respecting	8
18	Mr. Stuart.. ..	203	Aug. 24,	Assurances from M. Tricoupi	8
19	„ „ ..	204	25,	M. Tricoupi complains of the representations made by Photiades Bey.. .. .	8
20	„ „ ..	205 Confidential	25,	Band of Greeks deserted, and escaped from Chalcis	11
21	„ „ ..	207	25,	Geneva Convention. M. Condouriotis approved for signing the German representation	11
22	Mr. Layard ..	384 Telegraphic	Sept. 2,	Battle at Kadikeui. Defeat of Russians. From Mehemet Ali Pasha	11
23	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	2,	Battle at Kadikeui. From Grand Duke Nicholas	12
24	Lieut.-Col. Mansfield.	Telegraphic Confidential	2,	Turks are making a bridge at Silistria ..	12
25	Lord Odo Russell ..	338 Confidential	Aug. 31,	Servian preparations. German Government will not remonstrate	12
26	„ „ ..	343 Secret	Sept. 1,	Geneva Convention. Extracts from official newspapers. German and Austrian policy..	12
27	Lord A. Loftus ..	468	Aug. 28,	Destruction of Turkish vessels by Russian cruizers. Advice to M. de Giers ..	14
28	Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic	29,	Russian atrocities	14
29	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	30,	Greek inroads. Complaints against Greece ..	15
30	Musurus Pasha ..	Private	31,	Greek assurances. Will communicate opinion of the Porte	15
31	To Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	Sept. 3,	Greek assurances. May they be communicated to the Porte?..	15
32	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	3,	Authorizes him to inform the Sultan of instructions sent to Mr. White	16
33	„ „ ..	489	3,	Extends above	16
34	„ „ ..	490 Confidential	3,	Servia. Porte inclined to take initiative against. Answer to Musurus Pasha ..	16

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
35	To Mr. Layard ..	491	Sept. 3, 1877	Greece. Has promised Musurus Pasha to make representations to..	17
36	To Lord A. Loftus ..	329	3,	Atrocities. To bring to attention of Russian Government. Similar instructions to Mr. Layard	17
37	To Mr. Wyndham ..	59	3,	To inform Greek Government of the Porte's statements, and to impress upon them the expediency of maintaining neutrality ..	18
38	Consul-General Eldridge	71	Aug. 18,	Hostilities between Moslems and Ansariyeh, near Lattakia..	18
39	" " ..	Political 72	19,	Unsatisfactory state of affairs at Akkar ..	19
40	Consul Moore ..	13	24,	Tranquillity prevails at Jerusalem; but there is a prospect of great distress	22
41	Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha	Political Telegraphic	29,	Servia. To get Lord Derby's opinion respecting Porte's taking the initiative	22
42	To General Menabrea.	..	Sept. 4,	Black Sea blockade. No further representation has been made to the Porte	22
43	Mr. Layard ..	385	3,	Servia. Austrian Ambassador's communication to the Porte	23
44	" " ..	Telegraphic 386	3,	Movements of Turkish representatives ..	23
45	Mr. Thomson ..	Telegraphic	4,	Military camps to be broken up	23
46	" " ..	Telegraphic	4,	Khorassan and Merve. Negotiations have fallen through	23
47	Consul Kirby Green ..	97	Aug. 27,	Operations in Montenegro	24
48	" " ..	98	27,	Ali Rizah Pasha sent to Arta to watch Greek frontier	24
49	Consul Carruthers ..	39	29,	Greek ship going to Constantinople from Taganrog	25
50	Consul Sanderson ..	80	31,	Seals for Bulgarian municipalities ordered by Russian Government	25
51	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	Sept. 4,	Greece will not attack Turkey at present; will not pledge itself to discourage insurrections..	25
52	" " ..	Telegraphic	4,	Turkish Minister thinks Greece will remain quiet as long as Turks are victorious ..	26
53	Consul-General White	Telegraphic	4,	Servia. Bosnians tired of anarchy.. ..	26
54	Consul Zohrab ..	66	Aug. 12,	Kurdish outrages. Letter from an Armenian of Van to the Bishop of Bitlis	26
55	Mr. Layard ..	988	24,	Greece and Servia. Conversation with Grand Vizier	27
56	" " ..	Secret 989	24,	Excesses of Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks. Has spoken seriously to Grand Vizier, who promises to send Ahmed Vefyk Pasha to Adrianople	28
57	" " ..	990	24,	Geneva Convention. Conversation with Grand Vizier..	28
58	" " ..	991	24,	Christians in Crete. Has urged Grand Vizier to come to an understanding with them ..	29
59	" " ..	Confidential 992	24,	Kurdish outrages. Forwards Mr. Zohrab's despatch (No. 54), with remarks	30
60	" " ..	993	25,	Nestorian Christians. Telegram from Vali of Diarbekir. Hopes to get information from Mr. Rassam	30
61	" " ..	994	25,	Mingrelians. Grand Vizier says he will give orders that they should be sent back to Trebizond	31
62	" " ..	995	26,	Bulgarians. Is doing his best to induce Porte to treat them leniently. Mr. Geshoff imprisoned	32
63	" " ..	997	27,	Mussulmans and Christians. Danger of declaring that they cannot live together peaceably	33
64	" " ..	998	27,	Mr. Gladstone and M. Negroponte. The Greeks are not disposed to take the advice ..	33
65	" " ..	Confidential 999	27,	Invasion of Roumelia. Mr. Brophy's account of the misery occasioned	34
66	" " ..	1000	27,	Armenian Catholics. Monseigneur Hassoun's gratitude to Moukhtar Pasha for protection afforded them..	44
67	" " ..	1001	27,	Russo-Bulgarian outrages in Roumelia. Conversation with M. Dietz	45
68	" " ..	1002	28,	Attitude of Servia. Conversations with Server Pasha and M. Christich	46
69	" " ..	Secret 1003	28,	Attitude of Greece. Representations made by Server Pasha to M. Coundouriotti ..	47
70	" " ..	1005	28,	Mustafa Pasha appointed Minister of War in place of Mahmoud Damat Pasha.. ..	47
71	" " ..	1006	28,	Slav atrocities. Despatch from Consul Blunt .	48

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
72	Mr. Layard ..	1007	Aug. 28, 1877	State of affairs at Rustchuk and Kavarna, and Russian atrocities. Despatches from Consul Reade	51
73	" " ..	1010	28,	State of affairs at Prevesa. Despatch from Vice-Consul Blakeney	54
74	" " ..	1013 Confidential	28,	Ahmed Vefyk Pasha appointed Governor-General of Adrianople. His character ..	55
75	" " ..	1015	29,	Is doing his best to have Mehemet Aga punished for his share in the events at Kavarna	56
76	" " ..	1016	29,	Kurdish excesses. Reports by Captains McCalmont and Trotter	56
77	Consul Sandwith ..	57	23,	Panic in Crete	58
78	" " ..	58	25,	Grievances of Cretan Christians. Advisability of a Commission of investigation	59
79	Consul St. John ..	6	27,	Departure of Italian Consul for Cettigné to see the Prince of Montenegro	60
80	" " ..	7	27,	Guns and ammunition conveyed across Austrian territory into Montenegro	61
81	" " ..	716 Confidential	Sept. 3,	Baron Orczy disbelieves the above report ..	61
82	Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic	4,	Greece and Turkey. Thanks of Porte for promise of British representations at Athens	61
83	Mr. Layard ..	387 Telegraphic	5,	Fighting at Loftcha. The Turks have fallen back, but claim a victory at Kadi-Keui ..	62
84	Mr. Vivian ..	270	Aug. 30,	An Egyptian contingent is ready to start. The Khedive states that he would be prepared to cope with Greece single handed ..	62
85	Mr. Layard ..	388 Telegraphic	Sept. 6,	Victory of Mehemet Ali at Kazelevo ..	6
86	" " ..	389 Telegraphic	7,	Greece and Turkey. Fears that answer of Greek Government will be considered unsatisfactory	63
87	" " ..	390 Telegraphic	7,	Strait of Prevesa. Greek Government has protested against the Circular of the Porte..	63
88	Lieut.-Col. Mansfield .	Telegraphic	7,	Capture of Loftcha by the Russians.. ..	63
89	To Sir A. Paget ..	Confidential 309	7,	Attitude of Servia. Approves note to Signor Melegari respecting	63
90	Mr. Stuart.. ..	209 Confidential	Aug. 27,	Greece and Turkey. M. Tricoupi has denied the reports of frontier encounters.. .	64
91	" " ..	211 Confidential	30,	Rifles sent to M. Leonidas Bulgaris were purchased by General Ignatiew	64
92	Mr. Layard ..	1021	30,	Mingrelian emigrants. Hobart Pasha states that they were removed solely for their own sakes	64
93	" " ..	1022 Confidential	30,	The Porte has given orders for the removal from the seats of war of three "Times" correspondents	65
94	" " ..	1024	31,	State of affairs in Thessaly and Epirus. Reports from Acting Consul Barker and Vice-Consul Blakeney	66
95	Consul-General White	Telegraphic	Sept. 7,	The idea of war is extremely unpopular in Servia	67
96	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	8,	Engagements at Loftcha, &c. Official Russian telegram	67
97	Consul-General White	Telegraphic	8,	Prince Tzéretelew's mission concluded. Servia is to become unconditionally a Russian ally..	67
98	Lieut.-Col. Mansfield .	Telegraphic	8,	Attack on Plevna was to be recommenced on September 7. Telegram from Colonel Wellesley	68
99	Mr. Layard ..	391 Telegraphic	8,	Osman Pasha does not attach importance to occupation of Loftcha by the Russians ..	68
100	Consul-General White	121	Aug. 18,	Appointment of M. Persiani, late Secretary of Legation at Athens, to be Russian Agent and Consul General in Servia	68
101	" " .	123	20,	Attitude of Servia. Austrian objections to Servia attacking Turkey are no longer in full force	69
102	" " .	125	22,	Officers have been selected for higher commands in Servia, but there is still some hesitation as to the policy to be adopted. Mission of M. Hitrovo from Russian headquarters	69
103	" " .	126	22,	Policy of Servia. Conversation with M. Ristitch	69

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
104	Consul-General White	127	Aug. 23, 1877	M. Hitrovo's mission to Servia. Some secret negotiations seem to be going on	70
105	„ „ .	128	23,	Attitude of Servia. Review of M. Ristitch's policy	71
106	„ „ .	130	24,	Attitude of Servia. Has communicated to M. Ristitch the advice of Her Majesty's Government	72
107	„ „ .	132	25,	Nothing can be done, except, perhaps, by Austria, to check Servia	73
108	„ „ .	133 Confidential	25,	The Emperor of Russia has called upon Prince Milan to prepare for war before the end of the month	73
109	„ „ .	135	27,	Attitude of Servia. Has communicated British representations to M. Ristitch. Considers the Porte would be justified in addressing an ultimatum to Servia..	73
110	„ „ .	137	29,	Servian preparations not yet sufficiently advanced for war	74
111	„ „ .	139	Sept. 1,	Report on the Servian army by Mr. Vice-Consul Marshall	74
112	Sir A. Buchanan ..	701 Confidential	Aug. 24,	Alleged violations of Geneva Convention. Austrian Government has joined in protest to the Porte	77
113	„ „ ..	704 Confidential	28,	Attitude of Servia. Count Andrassy will be glad if British representations prove successful	78
114	„ „ ..	712 Confidential	Sept. 1,	Baron Calice states that Austria never undertook to prevent Servia from going to war ..	78
115	„ „ ..	718 Confidential	6,	As to the report that Austria has promised Germany to protect Russian retreat, if necessary	78
116	Lieut.-Col. Mansfield .	221 Confidential	Aug. 28,	The Roumanian army has crossed the Danube at Corabia	79
117	Mr. Wyndham ..	215	Sept. 1,	Arrival at the Piræus of volunteers for the Greek army	79
118	Sir A. Paget ..	332	6,	Attitude of Servia. Answer of Italian Government to note communicating substance of British representations to Servia .	80
119	Mr. Macdonell ..	349 Confidential	8,	German Government have studiously avoided offering advice to Servia	81
120	Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha .	Telegraphic	9,	Attitude of Greece towards Turkey. Telegrams from Athens and Berlin respecting British representations	81
121	Mr. Layard . ..	392 Telegraphic	9,	Threatened Russian attack on Sulina. Russian general has warned the commander of the "Cockatrice" to leave	81
122	„ „ . ..	393 Telegraphic	10,	Russians have entirely withdrawn from the right bank of the Lom. Telegram from Colonel Lennox	82
123	Lieut.-Col. Mansfield .	Telegraphic Confidential	10,	Bag of despatches and letters from Colonel Wellesley has been lost by Austrian messenger	82
124	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	10,	Fighting round Plevna. Telegram from Grand Duke Nicholas	82
125	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	10,	Greece and Turkey. Reply to No. 86. Answer of Greek Government had better not be communicated	82
126	To Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	10,	Greece and Turkey. Repeats Nos. 86 and 125. To tell Greek Government that it would be of no use to communicate such unsatisfactory answers to the Porte ..	83
127	To Mr. Layard ..	506	10,	Greece and Turkey. Extends No. 125 ..	83
128	To Mr. Wyndham ..	64	10,	Greece and Turkey. Extends No. 126 ..	83
129	Lieut.-Col. Mansfield .	226	1,	Prince Charles has been appointed Commander of the Russo-Roumanian forces before Plevna	84
130	„ „ .	229	5,	Remarks upon Prince Charles' appointment ..	84
131	Consul Sir C. Sebright	17	6,	Drilling of Greek levies and precautionary steps on the part of the Turks	85
132	Sir A. Buchanan ..	723	8,	State of affairs at Kustendji. Despatch from Vice-Consul Sankey to Mr. Layard ..	86
133	Mr. Taylour Thomson	Telegraphic	11,	Attrek valley. Persian Government unwilling to protest against action of Russian Government at present. Answer to No. 360 (July)	86
134	Mr. Layard . ..	394 Telegraphic Secret	11,	Attitude of Servia. Porte considers language of Austrian Government more satisfactory ..	87

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
135	Mr. Layard . ..	395 Telegraphic	Sept. 11, 1877	Servian Agent states that reports as to warlike intentions of Servia are greatly exaggerated. Telegram to Belgrade ..	87
136	Acting Consul Freeman	Telegraphic	11,	Capitulation of Nichsichs on the 8th September	87
137	Mr. Taylour Thomson	109	July 11,	Outrages in the district of Albakh were really committed by Turkish Kurds. Telegram from Government of Tabreez respecting	87
138	„ „ ..	114	Aug. 2,	Evacuation of Shalha by the Turks. Letter to Persian Government respecting ..	89
139	„ „ ..	116	6,	Protection of Christians in Turkish Armenia by Persian Government. Correspondence respecting	89
140	„ „ ..	117	6,	General Franchini at Tehran. Has no reference to political matters with Persia ..	93
141	Consul Abbott ..	14	1,	Protection of Turco-Armenian refugees by Persia from Persian Kurds. Despatch to Mr. Taylour Thomson respecting ..	93
142	Consul Zohrab ..	68	21,	Massacre of Christians by Kurds at Bayazid. Sheriff Bey implicated	95
143	Vice-Consul Biliotti ..	47	23,	The Mingrelians. Petition presented by. Observations respecting	95
144	„ „ ..	48	24,	The Abazians. Remarks respecting treatment and condition	97
145	Mr. Layard ..	1025 Secret	31,	Withdrawal of Consuls from Rustchuk. Conversation with Count Corti respecting ..	99
146	„ „ ..	1026 Secret	31,	Conversation at dinner with the Sultan ..	99
147	„ „ ..	1027	31,	Reception of Turkish Envoy in India. Conversation with Sultan respecting	103
148	„ „ ..	1028	Sept. 1,	Action between Turkish ironclad and "Vesta." Letters respecting	103
149	„ „ ..	1029	1,	Outrages on Jews and Mussulmans by Russians at Kyzanlik. Despatches substantiating truth of	105
150	„ „ ..	1030	1,	Plunder of Greek villages near Adrianople by Circassians. Has been brought before notice of Server Pasha	108
151	„ „ ..	1031	1,	Circassian outrages at Adrianople, and case of Messrs. Geshoff. Conversation with Ahmed Vefyk Pasha respecting	109
152	„ „ ..	1032	1,	Crete and the Porte. Grand Vizier promises to entertain alleged grievances of. . ..	110
153	„ „ ..	1034 Confidential	1,	Austria-Hungary and Servia. Questions put by Minister for Foreign Affairs to Count Zichy as to (1) passage of Russian troops through Servia, (2) attack on Turkey by Servia	110
154	„ „ ..	1035	3,	Violation of Geneva Convention by Turkish troops. Server Pasha undertakes to redress, and demands similar promises from Russian troops	110
155	„ „ ..	1036	4,	Austria-Hungary and Servia. Replies to questions by Count Zichy in No. 153 ..	111
156	„ „ ..	1037 Confidential	4,	Refusal of Bey of Tunis to supply troops to Turkey. Server Pasha ascribes to French influence, and requests British intervention .	111
157	„ „ ..	1038	4,	Thefts on Christians at Limasol. Joint note from Consular Agents respecting. Such joint representations are not advisable ..	112
158	„ „ ..	1039	4,	Greece and Turkey. Statement of pacific intentions at present on the part of the former by M. Condouriotis to Server Pasha. Turkish troops at Punta. Explanation of ..	112
159	„ „ ..	1040 Confidential	4,	Greece and the Porte. Server Pasha asks whether Hellenic Government had given Her Majesty's Government assurances of peaceable intentions	113
160	„ „ ..	1041	4,	The Geshoffs. One of them, acting as American Consular Agent, imprisoned by the Porte. Mr. Maynard asks British support in obtaining his release	113
161	„ „ ..	1042	4,	Ismail Pasha's address to his army. Forwards.	114
162	„ „ ..	1043	4,	Circassian outrages. Further despatches ..	115
163	„ „ ..	1044	4,	Outrages on Russian wounded. Russian soldiers guilty of similar treatment of Turkish wounded	117
164	„ „ ..	1045	4,	Mingrelian emigrants. Will be repatriated if they wish it	118

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
165	Mr. Layard ..	1046 Confidential	Sept. 5, 1877	Crete. Prince Ypsilanti having refused the Crown, an American protectorate was proposed without result	119
166	„ „ ..	1047	5,	Christian village of Banoko threatened by Turks. Grand Vizier has taken steps to protect	119
167	„ „ ..	1048	5,	The Geshoffs sent to Constantinople. Not in danger	119
168	„ „ ..	1050	5,	Consul Blunt declares his life would have been taken had he stayed at Kyzanlik till the Russian occupation	120
169	„ „ ..	1052 Confidential	5,	Servia. The Porte is grateful for action of Her Majesty's Government in requesting France to remonstrate	120
170	„ „ ..	1053	5,	Photiades Bey is objected to as Turkish Minister in Italy, and remains at Athens ..	120
171	Vice-Consul Biliotti ..	50	Aug. 31,	The Mingrelians. Despatch to Mr. Layard respecting	121
172	Consul Sandwith ..	60	31,	Crete. Review of affairs in	122
173	Consul Kirby Green ..	99	Sept. 1,	Decapitation of Montenegrin dead practised by Albanian irregulars, temporarily serving ..	124
174	„ „ ..	100	2,	Landing of guns and ammunition at Budua, sent by Russia to Montenegrins	124
175	„ „ ..	101	2,	Nichsich. Concentration of troops is due to the danger of its being captured by the Montenegrins	125
176	Acting Consul Barker.	54	5,	Celebration of the Sultan's accession, and state of affairs in Thessaly	125
177	To Mr. Layard ..	509	12,	Circassian outrages. Approves language held respecting	126
178	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	11,	Greece. M. Tricoupi asserts right to keep an army. It is far from ready to take the field.	126
179	Consul-General White	Telegraphic	11,	Prince Milan is pledged to Russia, and is getting ready for war	126
180	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	12,	English gun-boat at Sulina warned to move ..	126
181	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	12,	Plevna. Sortie by Turks repulsed. Bombardment continues	127
182	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	12,	Plevna. General Scobeloff reoccupies height commanding	127
183	To Mr. Layard ..	510	12,	Violation of Geneva Convention. Approves action taken respecting	127
184	„ „ ..	511	12,	Crete. Approves language to Grand Vizier respecting	127
185	„ „ ..	512	12,	Bulgarians taking part with Russians. Approves advice	127
186	„ „ ..	514	12,	Roumelia. Approves Mr. Brophy's action during the Russian invasion	128
187	Acting Consul Freeman	77	Aug. 17,	Movements in Bosnia and Herzegovina ..	128
188	„ „ ..	78	28,	Movements of insurgents in Bosnia	129
189	Mr. Wyndham ..	217	Sept. 4,	Greece. M. Tricoupi says will not attack Turkey at present, or connive at insurrections	130
190	„ „ ..	218	4,	Greece. Conversation with M. Tricoupi. He declares Greece to be desirous of peace with the Porte under present circumstances ..	130
191	„ „ ..	220	4,	Greece. Photiades Bey thinks Greece will remain quiet if Turkey is victorious ..	131
192	„ „ ..	221	5,	M. Tricoupi complains of Turkish fortifications on the Gulf of Arta	131
193	Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha	..	5,	Greek brigands attack Turkish frontier. Explained by Photiades Bey	132
194	Sir A. Buchanan ..	726	10,	Nichsich has been taken. Montenegrins will not advance to Herzegovina	133
195	Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic	11,	Arrival of military stores in Greece from Germany	134
196	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	12,	Destruction of Turkish commercial ships by Russian gun-boats	134
197	Lieut.-Col. Mansfield .	Telegraphic Confidential	13,	Plevna cannot be taken unless regularly invested	134
198	Mr. Layard ..	396 Telegraphic Secret	13,	Torpedoes are being placed in Gulf of Arta, Volo, and Sulina	134
199	Lieut.-Col. Mansfield .	Telegraphic	13,	Missing despatches. No tidings of	135
200	Consul Blunt ..	37	4,	Circassian outrages. Arrest of stragglers ordered	135
201	„ „ ..	38	5,	Vizirial testimony to the zeal of Turkish subjects	136

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
202	Consul Blunt ..	39	Sept. 5, 1877	Official edict for election of Deputies to the Chamber	137
203	Mr. Layard ..	1056	7,	Greek brigands in Thessaly were probably sent by Government to incite an insurrection ..	137
204	Sir A. Paget ..	336	8,	Italy and Turkey. Coldness exists between, owing to Black Sea blockade difficulties .	138
205	„ „ ..	340	10,	Servia and Greece have been advised by Italian Government to retain peaceable relations with the Porte	138
206	Sir A. Buchanan ..	Telegraphic	13,	Defeat of Hafiz Pasha. Russians will not cross Danube to Servia	139
207	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	13,	Plevna. Bombardment continues .	139
208	Lieut.-Col. Mansfield .	Telegraphic Confidential	13,	Plevna. Three Russian attacks repulsed ..	139
209	Mr. Wyndham ..	223	8,	Greece and Egypt. Bitterness of feeling exists between. Conversation with M. Tricoupi respecting	139
210	„ „ ..	224 Confidential	8,	Greece and Turkey. M. Tricoupi considers action of Her Majesty's Government in requesting statement of views as unfriendly ..	140
211	Lieut.-Col. Mansfield	Telegraphic Confidential	14,	Capture of Gravitza redoubt by Russians and Roumanians. Telegram from Colonel Wellesley	141
212	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	15,	Official telegram from Grand Duke. Fighting round Plevna	141
213	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	15,	Death of Prime Minister of Greece	141
214	Lieut.-Col. Mansfield	Telegraphic Secret	15,	Two redoubts captured by Russians on 11th. Recaptured by Turks on 12th. Telegram from Colonel Wellesley	141
215	„ „ ..	Telegraphic Confidential	15,	Mehemet Ali stationary on the Lom ..	142
216	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	16,	Official telegram from Grand Duke. Bombardment of Plevna on 13th and 14th. Russian and Roumanian losses .	142
217	Mr. Layard ..	397 Telegraphic	16,	Grand Vizier's account of Russian defeat at Plevna	142
218	„ „ ..	398 Telegraphic	16,	Proposed circular of Porte respecting application of martial law to foreigners . ..	142
219	„ „ ..	399 Telegraphic	16,	Telegram from Mehemet Ali to Grand Vizier. Defeat of Russians at Sinan	143
220	Consul Sir C. Sebright	18	13,	State of affairs. Proclamation of martial law in Epirus	143
221	Lord A. Loftus ..	493	12,	Answer of M. de Giers respecting relations of Russia with Roumania, Servia, and Greece..	144
222	Mr. Layard ..	400 Telegraphic	17,	Alleged capture of Fort Svetniti in the Shipka Pass by the Turks	145
223	Lieut.-Col. Mansfield	Telegraphic	17,	Roumanians have no hospital appliances ..	145
224	To Mr. Wyndham ..	68	17,	Attitude of Greece. Conversation with M. Tricoupi	145
225	To Mr. Taylour Thomson	71	17,	Kurdish outrages on Armenian Christians. Approves correspondence with Persian Minister for Foreign affairs respecting ..	145
226	To Mr. Layard ..	524	17,	Forwards correspondence respecting Kurdish outrages on Armenian Christians for communication to the Porte	146
227	„ „ ..	525	17,	Reception of Turkish Envoy to Afghanistan by Viceroy of India	146
228	„ „ ..	526	17,	Approves language to Ahmed Vefyk Pasha ..	146
229	„ „ ..	527 Confidential	17,	Approves language to Server Pasha relative to non-compliance of Regent of Tunis with request of Porte to furnish contingent of troops	146
230	„ „ ..	528	17,	Arrest of M. Geshoff. Approves his refusal to grant British protection to	147
231	„ „ ..	529	17,	Approves his having brought to notice of Porte the threatened Mussulman attack on village of Bansho	147
232	Consul - General Eldridge	74	1,	Affairs in the Ansariyeh Mountains. Forwards copy of despatch to Mr. Layard respecting	147
233	„ „ ..	76	3,	Disgraceful proceedings of troops sent to the Bekaa. Forwards copy of a despatch to Mr. Layard respecting	148
234	„ „ ..	77	4,	Arrival and treatment at Acre of forty-one Bulgarian prisoners. Copy of despatch to Mr. Layard respecting	149

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
235	M. Tricoupi to M. Gennadius	..	Sept. 4, 1877	Conversation with Mr. Wyndham respecting British representations to Greece as to relations with Turkey	150
236	M. Tricoupi to Greek Minister at Constantinople	Confidential	4,	Claim of Greece to right of passage through Strait of Prevesa	152
237	Mr. Layard ..	401	18,	Captain Fife's report of fighting in Shipka Pass	153
		Telegraphic		Revolutionary placards at Odessa	153
238	Consul-General Stanley	Telegraphic	18,	Withdrawal of Turkish troops from Soukoum .	153
239	Vice-Consul Biliotti ..	52	3,	List of arrivals at Trebizond of transports with emigrants from Caucasian coast . ..	153
240	„ „ ..	53	3,	Repatriation of Mingrelians. Copy of despatch to Mr. Layard respecting	155
241	„ „ ..	54	4,	Despatch from Mr. Doulcet respecting Caucasian emigrants landed at Samsoon ..	156
242	„ „ ..	55	7,	State of affairs in Crete. Action of the Christian Committee	158
243	Consul Sandwith ..	61	8,	Favourable impression produced by first acts of Ahmed Vefyk Pasha at Adrianople ..	159
244	Mr. Layard ..	1057	8,	Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks. Extract from a letter from Colonel Lennox complaining of conduct of	160
245	„ „ ..	1059	8,	Greek protest against increase of Turkish force in fort of Punta and against circular relating to the Strait of Prevesa	160
246	„ „ ..	1060	8,	Trial of Turkish officials postponed till after the war	161
247	„ „ ..	1061	8,	Conversation between Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at Vienna and Count Andrassy respecting attitude of Servia. Telegram to Server Pasha respecting	161
248	„ „ ..	1062 Secret	10,	Arrival of Ahmed Vefyk Pasha at Adrianople. Copy of a despatch from Mr. Blunt respecting	162
249	„ „ ..	1063	11,	Proceedings of Ahmed Vefyk Pasha at Adrianople	163
250	„ „ ..	1064	11,	Sufferings of Christians at Carlova and Sopot. Two letters from Mr. Fawcett respecting ..	163
251	„ „ ..	1065	11,	German menaces respecting people implicated in the Salonica murders, who were liberated, but have been reimprisoned	165
252	„ „ ..	1067	11,	Servia. Steps taken by M. Christich to prevent her joining Russia	166
253	„ „ ..	1068 Confidential	11,	Officiousness of British Consul at Larnaca. Porte's dissatisfaction at	167
254	„ „ ..	1069	11,	Greek warlike preparations. Porte convinced they are meant to attack Turkey	167
255	„ „ ..	1071	12,	Count Seristori. Information respecting his visit from Italy	168
256	Consul Kirby Green ..	102	10,	Placards in his previous telegram purport to be text of a letter from the Czar to Prince Gortschakow	168
257	Consul-General Stanley	Telegraphic	18,	Plevna. Continued bombardment. Turks repulsed at Shipka	168
258	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	18,	General Todleben ordered to head-quarters ..	168
259	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	18,	More Greek volunteers left for Corfu ..	169
260	Mr. Vivian . ..	284	10,	Has fulfilled instructions in telegram of 10th. M. Tricoupi asserts Greek army is far from ready to take the field	169
261	Mr. Wyndham ..	227	11,	Greek assurances to Porte. Conversation with M. Tricoupi	169
262	„ „ ..	228	12,	Russia is instigating Greek military preparations	170
263	Porte to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic	19,	Should not "Cockatrice" leave Sulina? ..	170
264	Mr. Layard ..	402 Telegraphic	19,	Military information from Asia from Sir A. Kemball	170
265	„ „ ..	403 Telegraphic	19,	Plevna. Bombardment continues	170
266	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	20,	Greece and Turkey. Approves language in No. 159	171
267	To Mr. Layard ..	450 Confidential	20,	Approves language to Sultan on occasion of his dining at Marslak, reported in No. 146 .	171
268	„ „ ..	539 Secret	20,	Greece and Turkey. Approves his reply to M. Tricoupi in No. 210	171
269	To Mr. Wyndham ..	69	20,		

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
270	Mr. Layard ..	1075	Sept. 13, 1877	Mingrelians removed to Trebizond. Explanations being satisfactory, has instructed Consul Biliotti to take no steps officially ..	171
271	„ „ ..	1076	14,	Greek protest respecting stoppage of Prevesa passage by the Porte	172
272	„ „ ..	1077	14,	Disturbances by bands near Volo. Information respecting the leaders of them. M. Tricoupi's attention called by Photiades Bey ..	173
273	Sir C. Sebright ..	19	17,	Report from Vice-Consul at Santa Maura. State of Upper Albania.	173
274	Sir A. Buchanan .	Telegraphic	21,	Count Andrassy pleased with his interview with Prince Bismarck. Their opinions as to the war identical	174
275	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	21,	M. Geshoff. To use his best efforts to save .	174
276	„ „ ..	404 Telegraphic	21,	Respecting pass to Greek vessel. Assured that it has not been given, and strong instructions sent	174
278	„ „ ..	544A	21,	Turkish circular respecting state of siege and martial law at Constantinople. Her Majesty's Government cannot pronounce a definite opinion	175
279	Mr. Wyndham ..	230	15,	Orders given respecting volunteers. State of Greek army and finances	175
280	Count Menabrea ..	..	21,	Black Sea blockade. Thanks for note of the 4th instant, with views of Her Majesty's Government	175
281	Consul-General Stanley	Telegraphic	21,	Similar placards to those referred to in his telegram of 18th posted in Nicolaieff and other towns	176
282	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	22,	To give "Cockatrice" such orders as he deems fit. See No. 264	176
283	Mr. Layard ..	406 Telegraphic	22,	Atrocities. Has taken no action on No. 17, according to his instructions by telegraph on 10th instant	176
284	„ „ ..	407 Telegraphic	22,	Official confirmation of the battle at Biela ..	176
285	Consul Ricketts ..	Telegraphic	22,	Insurrection in Daghistan	176
286	Sir A. Buchanan ..	Telegraphic	22,	Orders to Southern Railway Company to lend their sidings	177
287	To Mr. Layard ..	546	22,	Bulgarians in prison at Acre. To suggest that they be treated leniently	177
288	Lieut.-Col. Mansfield .	Telegraphic	23,	Attack expected from Mehemet Ali towards Tirnova	177
289	Consul-General White	141	4,	Bosnian Christians are thoroughly tired of the state of anarchy existing in their province ..	177
290	„ „ ..	144	8,	Great uncertainty as to next step of Servia ..	178
291	„ „ ..	145	8,	Italian recommendation to Servia to keep aloof from the present war	178
292	„ „ ..	147	10,	General Fadaieff has left Belgrade	178
293	„ „ ..	148 Confidential	10,	Present attitude of Servia and feelings of Servians	179
294	„ „ ..	150	11,	Thinks Prince Milan and his Government are fully committed to join Russia	180
295	„ „ ..	151	15,	A Russian Military Attaché has arrived, and a Russian Representative is expected shortly..	180
296	„ „ ..	152	15,	Report on Servian army by Vice-Consul Marshall	180
297	Acting-Consul Freeman	82	6,	State of siege proclaimed throughout the Vilayet	181
298	„ „ ..	83	6,	Claim by Governor-General of Bosnia for cattle carried off by the insurgents addressed to Austrian Consul-General ..	182
299	„ „ ..	84	7,	Tour of inspection by the Mutessarif of Banialuka. From Vice-Consul Cooper ..	182
300	Mr. Scott	57 Confidential	19,	Sympathy of the Emperor with the Emperor of Russia	183
301	Consul St. John ..	16	14,	Munition of war for Montenegro, referred to in his despatch No. 7, came from Italy in a ship flying Greek colours .	183
302	Mr. Harriss-Gastrell..	98	16,	Idleness and ignorance of the Bosnian refugees.	184
303	„ „ ..	99	16,	Respecting the Rayahs and their positions ..	
304	„ „ ..	102 Confidential	17,	M. Tisza assured by Count Andrassy that Russians should not pass through Servia, nor Servians enter Bosnia	184
305	Sir A. Buchanan ..	746	20,	Counter claims by Austrians on Turks respecting No. 298	185

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
306	Sir A. Buchanan ..	750 Confidential	Sept. 20, 1877	Montenegrin invasion of Herzegovina. Conversation with Baron Orczy	185
307	Mr. Macdonell ..	357	22,	Munitions, under German officer from the Rhine, have passed by Königsberg to Russia	186
308	Mr. Layard ..	408 Telegraphic	23,	Geshoff still at Philippopolis. Case is serious.	186
309	„ „ ..	409 Telegraphic	23,	Means to go to Besika Bay for two days ..	186
310	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	23,	Turkish attacks at St. Nicholas repulsed ..	186
311	Sir A. Buchanan ..	Telegraphic	23,	Count Andrassy's interview with Prince Bismarck seems to have been satisfactory ..	186
312	Mr. Layard ..	Confidential 410	24,	Military news from Colonel Lennox.. ..	187
313	To Consul Carruthers	Telegraphic	24,	No safe conduct given by Turks to Greek vessel mentioned in his despatch of August 29	187
314	Mr. Layard ..	549	24,	Approves his recommending leniency to Bulgarian rebels	187
315	„ „ ..	551	24,	Repatriation of Mingrelians at Trebizond. To call the attention of the Porte to ..	188
316	Consul Carruthers ..	40	17,	Inefficiency of Black Sea blockade. British merchants and agents make it a serious grievance	188
317	Sir A. Buchanan ..	758 Confidential	22,	Respecting munitions of war for Montenegro from an Italian ship. Reported by Consul St. John	188
318	M. Tricoupi to M. Gennadius	..	8,	Respecting the motive which caused Her Majesty's Government to ask Greece to give assurances to Turkey	188A
318A	„ „ ..	..	11,	Respecting the attitude of Turkey as regards Greece	188A
319	Mr. Layard ..	411 Telegraphic	24,	Supplies and reinforcements have reached Plevna	189
320	„ „ ..	412 Telegraphic	24,	Baud with Greek connivance about to enter Turkish territory. If so, Porte will send ships into Greek waters ..	189
321	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	25,	The Geshoffs. Great excitement in England respecting. To inform the Porte ..	189
322	Consul Sanderson ..	Telegraphic	25,	Danube Commission Inspector-General is sent to Turkish outposts at Sulina by Russians ..	189
323	Consul-General Eldridge	78	11,	Progress of events in district of Lattakia ..	189
324	Acting Consul Freeman	86	13,	Nichsich surrendered to Montenegrins. Turks to fall back to Krstac. Present instructions of Turks to concentrate at Svornick for Servian invasion	191
325	Consul Kirby Green..	103	13,	Fall of Nichsich. Unexpected at Scutari ..	192
326	„ „ ..	104	16,	Letter from Governor-General to Mirdite Chiefs	192
327	„ „ ..	105	16,	Powerful artillery of Montenegrins has considerably changed the military position ..	193
328	Consul Sanderson ..	85	20,	A woman stated to have been barbarously treated by the Turks	193
329	Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic	24,	Band of thirty men under Dimitrion left Euboea for Macedonia	195
330	Mr. Layard ..	413 Telegraphic	25,	Death of Lieutenant Layard at Shipka from typhus	195
331	„ „ ..	415 Telegraphic	25,	Porte demands recall of the Greek Consul in Crete	195
332	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	26,	Greek steamer sent in pursuit of Dimitrion's band	195
333	To Mr. Layard ..	553	26,	Approves leave to Mr. Fawcett to visit Roumelia	195
334	Vice-Consul Biliotti ..	57	12,	Three Abazian women, Christians, separated from their husbands, also Christians, until they become Mahomedans	196
335	„ „ ..	58	12,	Respecting Caucasian emigrants. Orders of the Porte are disregarded ..	196
336	Acting Consul Barker.	56	19,	Arrival of Tartar refugees at Cavalla. Martial law proclaimed in Thessaly ..	197
337	Lieut.-Col. Siborne ..	32	22,	Intended Russian attack on Sulina. Presence of the "Cockatrice"	199
338	Porte to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic	26,	Cruel conduct of Russians after the recent fights at Loftcha. Inveighing against ..	200
339	Mr. Layard ..	416 Telegraphic	27,	Hopes the Geshoffs' lives are safe, and that they will be sent to Constantinople ..	200
340	Lord A. Loftus ..	Very Conf. Telegraphic	27,	Reinforcements arrived at Plevna	201

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
341	Consul-General White	Telegraphic	Sept. 27, 1877	Prince Milan's advisers urge necessity of delaying war	201
342	Mr. Layard ..	1074 Very Conf.	13,	Greek criminals in Constantinople released, and sent to Athens to serve against Turkey .	201
343	„ „ ..	1080	15,	Respecting the control exercised by the Hellenic Government over the revolutionary Committees, and Greek assurances ..	204
344	„ „ ..	1081	15,	The new Electoral Law cannot be carried out..	204
345	„ „ ..	1082	15,	A million sterling at the disposal of the Porte. Report of Commission on Caimé system	205
346	„ „ ..	1085	17,	Respecting the Mingrelian emigrants. Matter is in the hands of the German Ambassador .	206
347	„ „ ..	1087 Confidential	17,	Proposed Circular respecting foreigners when Constantinople is under Martial Law and in a state of siege	206
348	„ „ ..	1088 Confidential	18,	Respecting the steps Turkey would take if the Russians recrossed the Danube	207
348*	„ „ ..	1089 Confidential	18,	Strong desire among many Turks for peace at first opportunity	207
349	„ „ ..	1090	18,	Respecting Bosnian refugees in Austrian territory. Information by Mr. Zeimann ..	207
350	„ „ ..	1091	18,	Affairs in Bourgas district. Report from Vice-Consul Brophy	208
351	„ „ ..	1092	18,	Martial Law proclaimed at Prevesa. Despatch from Vice-Consul Blakeney	209
352	„ „ ..	1093 Very Conf.	19,	Orders to send the Geshoffs to Constantinople are disregarded. Details respecting them ..	210
353	„ „ ..	1094	19,	Outrages at Medina last spring. No investigation has yet taken place.. ..	211
354	„ „ ..	1096	19,	State of the Balchik and Kavarna. Report from Captain Drummond	212
355	„ „ ..	1097	19,	Threatened Russian attack on Sulina. Despatch from Vice-Consul Stokes .. .	212
356	„ „ ..	1098	19,	Salonica murders. Reply of Server Pasha to notes of Prince Reuss and Count de Moüy respecting the release of some concerned in .	213
357	„ „ ..	1100	19,	Mr. Fawcett's report of districts south of Balkans	214
358	„ „ ..	1101	21,	Military operations in Armenia. By Captains McCalmont and Trotter	216
359	„ „ ..	1102	20,	Conduct of authorities at Samsoon respecting three Abazian women will be inquired into. Report by Vice-Consul Biliotti	217
360	„ „ ..	1104 Confidential	21,	Ahmed Vefyk Pasha has promised to do his best respecting the Geshoffs	217
361	„ „ ..	1105 Confidential	21,	Black Sea blockade. Pass to a Greek ship at Taganrog. Strong orders given respecting .	217
362	Consul Blunt ..	42	13,	Administrative measures of Ahmed Vefyk Pasha. Report from Vice-Consul Willshire	218
363	Consul Sandwith ..	62	15,	Petition to Sanieh Pasha by Christian Committee in Apokorona	220
364	Mr. Ffrench ..	Telegraphic	27,	Respecting the facts stated in telegram from the Danube Commissioners. Ministry for Foreign Affairs knows nothing of ..	222
365	Mr. Layard ..	417 Telegraphic	27,	Porte refuses leave to Russia to bring timber down from Upper Danube	223
366	„ „ ..	418	27,	Ismail Pasha reported to have repulsed Russians	223
367	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	28,	Grand Duke Paul joins Emperor at headquarters	223
368	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	28,	Greek Government intend to remain *de facto* at peace	223
369	„ „ ..	233	22,	War material landed at the Piræus	223
370	„ „ ..	234 Confidential	22,	Long conversation with M. Tricoupi respecting Greece and Turkey. Statement left with him..	224
371	Mr. Layard ..	419 Telegraphic	29,	Still great irritation against Greece. Preparations are going on	226
372	„ „ ..	420 Telegraphic Secret	29,	Intrigue against Mehemet Ali Pasha. Will be replaced perhaps by Suleiman Pasha ..	226

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

Part XVII.

No. 1.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 198.)

My Lord, *Athens, August* 20, 1877.

SEEING by Mr. Layard's despatch No. 745 of the 9th ultimo, of which your Lordship has inclosed to me a copy, that he continued to believe that the Hellenic Consul-General at Constantinople had released prisoners from the Greek prison, and had been collecting other bad and desperate men from the Christian quarters of that capital, in order to send them to Greece to take part in an invasion of Turkey, I have again questioned M. Tricoupi closely upon the subject.

As M. Tricoupi repeated his former denial that there could be any foundation for such an imputation, I suggested to him that perhaps the Consul-General might have been acting at the instigation of one of the Committees, and without reporting his proceedings to the Hellenic Government.

He assured me, however, that he was very well informed respecting the doings of the different Committees,—that Hellenic subjects were being sent, by their assistance, in considerable numbers, from Egypt, Smyrna, Cyprus, Samos, Taganrog, Trieste, Bucharest, and other places, as volunteers for the army, but that he had not heard of any having been sent from Constantinople. He declared, moreover, that the Government rather desired to restrain or to confine the immigration to persons of good character and properly qualified in other respects for military service, than to give promiscuous encouragement to it, as it had been necessary to refuse the services of many who had arrived, on account of disease or incapacity, and as the enlistment of bad characters could only bring discredit upon the army, and be a source of embarrassment to the country.

In trying to discover some way of accounting for the reports which had been made to Mr. Layard respecting the conduct attributed to the Consul-General, it occurred to M. Tricoupi that, as the Hellenic Consulate had, up to the time of the alleged occurrence, no penal jurisdiction in Turkey, the criminals said to have been released from the Greek prison may have been transferred to Athens in the usual manner for the purpose of undergoing their allotted punishment, and that the other desperate characters mentioned by Mr. Layard might have been seized on, or shortly before, the day of embarkation for the same purpose.

This passing surmise of M. Tricoupi's was not, of course, intended as an official explanation; and he seemed to feel the necessity of writing at once to Constantinople, with a view to sift the matter, as far as possible, to the bottom.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 2.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 199.)
Athens, August 21, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 45 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to report that I have duly informed M. Tricoupi that your Lordship considered that I had, in my former conversations with him, correctly construed the meaning of the words "any administrative reforms or advantages," which occurred in your despatch No. 34, Confidential, of the 2nd ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 3.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 983.)
Therapia, August 24, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two despatches from Captain Fife, announcing a massacre of Mussulmans at Uflahanli, and forwarding a Report from Lieutenant Layard on the battle fought at Kyzanlik.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD

Inclosure 1 in No. 3.

Captain Fife to Mr. Layard.

Camp at Hain-Boghaz, August 16, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that yesterday morning three Mussulman women, inhabitants of the village of Uflahanli, came into camp, and reported that the male Mussulman inhabitants had been massacred by the Bulgarians, two Cossacks being present; that some of the women and girls had been taken into the hills by the Bulgarians, and many had been killed, some being burned in their houses; and that this had occurred about a week since.

I proceeded to the village, distant from here about ten miles, and saw about 120 bodies lying together in several heaps in a wood. They were in an advanced state of decomposition, but it was evident that they were Mussulmans from their dress.

I was informed by Captain Gambier, the correspondent of the "Times," and Major Leader, of the "Daily Telegraph," who were present, that they had found the body of a Mussulman girl lying in the village with her throat cut, and of another Mussulman woman in a well.

When returning, we met two women, also Mussulman inhabitants of the village, who confirmed the previous accounts, and stated that the men had been first employed by the Russians to construct defences at the Hain-Boghaz, and that on the completion of these works they were massacred by the Bulgarians, incited and encouraged to do so by the Cossacks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. C. FIFE, *Captain,*
Military Attaché.

Inclosure 2 in No. 3.

Captain Fife to Mr. Layard.

Camp at Hain-Boghaz, August 17, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward the accompanying Report and sketch of the combat at Kyzanlik by Lieutenant Layard, 37th Regiment, also a copy of my telegram sent from here this morning to inform your Excellency of the capture of that place.

The invasion of Roumelia may be considered at an end. The Russians and Bulgarians

will probably attempt the defence of the southern entrance of the Shipka Pass, which, if held, gives them the means of crossing the chief range of the Balkans at a future time. A detachment of their troops is intrenched within the defile of Hain-Boghaz.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. C. FIFE, *Captain,*
Military Attaché.

Inclosure 3 in No. 3.

Lieutenant Layard to Captain Fife.

Khani-Kioi, August 17, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on Wednesday August 15, I left this camp at 10 A.M. with a body of cavalry composed as follows:—100 Nizams, 200 Bashi-Bazouks, and 300 Circassians, the whole commanded by Yusuph Bey, a Major on the staff of Suleiman Pasha, the object of the expedition being a reconnaissance of the Russian position supposed to be at Kyzanlik.

At 2·30 P.M. we arrived at Maglish, 15 miles, and found the village partly in flames and occupied by a few Bulgarians, three of whom were killed, the remainder escaping to the hills.

At 4 P.M. we continued our advance, and half-an-hour before sunset arrived within 800 yards of Kyzanlik, which we found occupied by the enemy. Deeming it too late to enter the town that evening, Yusuph Bey retired on Maglish and the following morning attacked Kyzanlik in front with a force of 250 Nizams and Bashi-Bazouks, and on the right by the low hills, with 50 Nizams and Circassians. The remainder of the Circassians had remained at Maglish. After some sharp fighting in the town and the surrounding woods, the place was captured.

About 250 Circassians arrived after the capture of the town, and an engagement ensued between them and the advanced posts of the Russians, who, evidently thinking there was a large force in rear, retreated on Shipka.

The losses on the side of the enemy were stated to be about 300 killed and wounded. Kyzanlik itself was occupied by about 250 armed Bulgarians, few escaping. The losses of the Turks are 4 killed and 5 wounded.

Before the fight I advanced within a mile and a-half of the Russian position and estimated their advanced posts to consist of 6 battalions and some cavalry. It was stated to me that the Russians have 20,000 men in a strongly fortified position at Shipka and up the Pass.

The Christian inhabitants of Kyzanlik had left during the night and early morning, and only Mussulmans remained with the armed Bulgarians. About 2,000 women and children and 50 men remained of the Mussulman population. These stated that the Bulgarians had massacred all the male inhabitants except those we saw, also killing several women and children and violating many young girls.

About 70 Turks were released who had been taken prisoners at the crossing of the Balkans by the Russians. These informed me that they had been well-treated by the Russians, who had preserved good order in the town, till they evacuated it on the 1st August, leaving behind them a small body of Cossacks. They confirmed the intelligence I received from the Mussulman inhabitants relative to the brutalities committed by Bulgarians, which had all occurred since the Russians left the town, giving it over to the Bulgarians after disarming the Mussulmans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN H. LAYARD, *37th Regiment.*

Forwarded,
(Signed) J. C. FIFE, *Captain.*
August 17, 1877.

No. 4.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 984.)
Therapia, August 24, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a telegram addressed by Suleiman Pasha to the Sultan, and sent by His Majesty to me, relating to the cruelties and

massacres committed by the Bulgarians upon the Mussulmans in the district of Kyzanlik. This account has already been partly communicated to your Lordship, and to some extent confirmed, I grieve to say, by Captain Fife and Mr. Julian Layard; but I forward Suleiman Pasha's telegram to show your Lordship the effect that these horrible acts are calculated to produce upon the mind of the Sultan, and the feelings of exasperation and revenge that they not unnaturally excite in the Turkish troops who witness them. It can scarcely be a matter of surprise, although it is to be deplored, that the Mussulmans should take a bloody revenge upon their authors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Suleiman Pasha to the First Secretary of the Sultan.

(Télégraphique.) *Zaara Djedid (Yeni-Zaghra), le* $\frac{2}{14}$ *Août*, 1877.

JE jure par le ciel que les corps, vus de mes propres yeux, d'hommes, femmes, et enfants Musulmans massacrés par les Cosaques et les Bulgares qui se trouvent sur la route entre Carditch (? Ferditch) et Kizanlik, ainsi que dans les villages et autres endroits situés aux environs des deux rives de la dite route, et rejetés dans les champs, sur les chemins, et dans les fossés, sont innombrables.

D'après les renseignements obtenus d'un petit nombre d'hommes et de femmes Musulmanes échappés à la mort et arrivés au camp, le nombre des victimes des endroits que je n'ai pas pu voir de mes yeux à cause qu'ils sont situés loin de nôtre passage, est incalculable.

Les officiers et autres fonctionnaires étrangers qui accompagnent l'armée Impériale ont eux-mêmes vu, avec grand étonnement et regret, les corps des hommes, femmes, et enfants Musulmans qu'il leur était possible de voir.

Les faits prouvent que les Bulgares sont déterminés à exterminer la population si injustement et de la manière la plus cruelle. Ceux-ci ont tué à Oflander tous les Musulmans, hommes, femmes, et enfants, à l'exception d'une fille de sept ans, qui seule a pu échapper à leur férocité. Outre les Islams que les Bulgares et les Cosaques ont tués au village de Ketchidéressi, près de Kizanlik, hier soir ils ont tué les soixante-dix Musulmans sauvés et une grande quantité des jeunes filles de la même religion qui, préférant l'honneur à la vie, avaient refusé de se rendre aux infamies des Bulgares. Ce fait m'a été rapporté de quelques femmes et enfants que l'armée a pu sauver en arrivant aujourd'hui en ces lieux.

Il n'y a que les Russes et les Bulgares qui puissent faire les innombrables atrocités dont le peuple Islam et tous ceux qui ont de l'humanité se rappèleront avec regret jusqu'à la consommation des siècles, et qui ont été commises envers les pauvres populations Musulmanes qui, par de fausses et perfides assurances, ont été désarmés complètement et abandonnés comme des moutons, ayant les pieds liés, et leurs armes furent remises aux Bulgares.

Des atrocités sans exemple ont été également commises surtout envers les femmes et les enfants au berceau que les sauvages même auraient respectés. Que le Tout-puissant protecteur des innocents frappe ces cruels de la vengeance divine.

Ces barbares ont mis au milieu des femmes et des enfants des parties génitales de leurs maris et parents massacrés; de telles immoralités ont été commises envers les femmes Musulmanes qui ont été tuées qu'il est impossible d'en faire part sans rougir. Dans toute l'armée il n'y a pas un soldat qui n'ait pleuré le malheureux sort de ces victimes.

Enfin, des femmes et des enfants ont été amenés dans les églises et forcés à embrasser le Christianisme. Je regrette de dire que la résolution de ces malfaiteurs est de ne pas laisser la trace de Musulman dans les environs et accomplir ainsi le but de sa mission.

No. 5.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 985.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 24, 1877.

IN my despatch No. 861 of July 30 I informed your Lordship that the Sultan had kindly received my suggestion that he should invite to the palace the Armenian Patriarch as he had done the Greek Patriarch and the Bulgarian Exarch. His Majesty has since received Monseigneur Narses, and, after conversing in his usual gracious manner with his Holiness, conferred upon him the Order of the Osmanié of the first class.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 6.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 707. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, August* 30, 1877.

I SPOKE to the Duc Decazes this afternoon respecting the apparent intention of Servia to declare war against Turkey.

His Excellency told me, very confidentially, that he had instructed Count Rochechouart to use the strongest language to Prince Milan, and to point out the absolute folly of the course which Servia was pursuing.

I ventured to communicate to the Duke the tenor of the instructions given by your Lordship to Mr. Consul-General White, by telegraph, as recorded in your despatch to me No. 498 of the 27th instant, and I repeated your Lordship's arguments to show that if Servia did declare war against Turkey it would be impossible for Her Majesty's Government to support the claims of the former in any discussions which might take place at the close of the war.

His Excellency remarked that he had even gone further than this, and had declared that not only would Servia lose by the war, but that she might even disappear after its close.

The Duke added that he could not but feel anxious as to the turn matters might soon take; that, if Servia declared war, the Turks might attempt to incite the Bosniac Begs; and that, if anything like a small civil war was to ensue in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, Austria might, in spite of herself, be obliged to act. He was uneasy, too, he said, with regard to the Polish agitation.

As to Greece, his Excellency observed, in answer to a question of mine, that he was less apprehensive, being of opinion that, at the present moment at least, she was not ready to draw the sword.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 7.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September 1.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 30 *Août*, 1877.

UN certain nombre de Monténégrins ont incendié complètement les villages de Staritcha, Zir, et Bala, situés entre Kolachine et la station Novikovatch. Ils ont tué deux Musulmans, une femme Musulmane et un Chrétien, et blessé une femme et quatre enfants Musulmans en bas âge. Ces faits sons attestés tant par le Caïmacam de Kolachine, que par le commandant militaire. Le Gouverneur de Novi-Bazar rapporte, de son côté, que les Monténégrins ont jeté dans le feu trois jeunes garçons après les avoir assassinés, et ont coupé le visage d'une fille depuis les sourcils jusqu'aux lèvres.

No. 8.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 380.) *Therapia, August 31, 1877, 4·20 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING received from Colonel Lennox dated yesterday:—

"On 22nd and 23rd August the troops at Yeni-Keui under Ferik Salih Pasha repulsed Russian attacks on their advanced position between Sarnasouhlar and Bazisler. The attack, at first not vigorously pushed, was subsequently prosecuted, and its failure was a considerable success for the Turks; the latter, having been reinforced, assumed the offensive this day. The force consisted of Nedjeb Pasha's division, or a part of it, and one brigade of Assaf Pasha's division from Rasgrad, and part of the corps under Prince Hassan from Sarnasouhlar. Mehemet Ali Pasha, by whose orders the combined movement was undertaken, was present with the latter force. The fighting lasted from 10 to sunset. The movement resulted in an engagement along a very extended line; the Turks drove the Russians from several positions on the right bank of the Lom, occupying successively Filibiler, Spahiler, Jardin-Keui, Sadina, and Karahassan-Keui; the principal fighting was near the latter place. On the left the Turks crossed the river at Haidar-Keui, and the Russians, driven from their entrenchments at that place and Ayaslar, raised their camps at those places, and at Popkeui. The Turkish troops are bivouacking on the positions taken. No reports as to the respective losses have been received at headquarters, but they are believed to be very disproportionate to the successes obtained by Mehemet Ali Pasha."

No. 9.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 381.) *Therapia, August 31, 1877, 4·30 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING received from Her Majesty's Consul at Adrianople, dated this day, 1 P.M.:—

"Mehemet Ali Pasha telegraphs that yesterday he gained a victory over the Russians at Yeni-Keui near Rasgrad. Russians lost 4,000 in killed and wounded, 1 gun, 2,000 rifles, and 2,000 cloaks, ammunition and provisions; Turkish loss, 300 killed and wounded."

No. 10.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 1.)

St. Petersburgh, September 1, 1877, 11 A.M.
(Telegraphic.)

GRAND DUKE NICOLAS telegraphs, dated Gorny Studeni, August 30, 10 P.M.:—

"All quiet everywhere. Prince Charles of Roumania appointed Commander of Russo-Roumanian force of Western Corps."

No. 11.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, September 1, 1877, 12·25 P.M.*
(Secret.)

COLONEL WELLESLEY reports that Mehemet Ali Pasha is sending officer with flag of truce to the Grand Duke Nicholas to make an important communication, nature of which is as yet unknown.

No. 12.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, September 1, 1877, 2·10 P.M.*

PRINCE CHARLES has been named Commander-in-chief of the whole of the Russian and Roumanian forces before Plevna, with General Zatoff as his Chief of the Staff. Russian contingent comprises two complete Corps d'Armée.

No. 13.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 1, 1877.*

I HAVE spoken to Baron Calice on the subject of the telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople communicated to me yesterday. He does not admit that the Porte maintains that Austria gave assurances that she would not permit Servia to attack Turkey, but he did not deny that Count Zichy's attention had been called to the subject, who, he said, in answer to his telegrams, will probably be referred to instructions he received when Austria objected to belligerents extending the operations of war to Servia, as he will find in them that, although Count Andrassy expressed at that time a belief that the Servian Government did not require to take part in the war, he never undertook to prevent her doing so. This view of the case is supported by my reports to your Lordship.

No. 14.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 382.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 1, 1877.*

PORTE informs me that Osman Pasha attacked the Russians 30,000 strong yesterday at Pelichat, to the east of Plevna, captured three redoubts and one cannon, and forced the enemy to retreat with serious loss.

No. 15.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 383.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 1, 1877.*

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs asks whether Greek Government have given any distinct assurances to Her Majesty's Government that Greece will not attack Turkey or endeavour to cause her embarrassment by conniving at attempts to raise Greek population, and if so, whether your Lordship will authorize me to make an official communication to that effect to the Porte. I have told the Minister for Foreign Affairs that the last accounts from Her Majesty's Minister at Athens lead me to believe that there is much less danger now than there was a short time ago of an attack on Turkey.

No. 16.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Adams.

(No. 512.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 1, 1877.*

REFERRING to the conversation which I had with him on the 29th ultimo, as recorded in my despatch No. 504 of that date, the French Ambassador informs me that he has inquired of the Duc Decazes whether the French Government are prepared to protest against the apparent intention of Servia to recommence hostilities against Turkey.

The Duc Decazes has stated, in reply, that the French Government have, for several

months past, been making, uninvited, the most energetic representations, with the view of dissuading Prince Milan's Government from renewing the war; and that these representations were repeated by the French Agent as lately as the 27th ultimo. M. de Rochouard is, however, convinced that the remonstrances of the French Government will be ineffective; and the Duc Decazes coincides in this opinion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 17.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 488.) *Foreign Office, September 1, 1877.*

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government have received with much regret the reports forwarded by you, and those which have been published by the Turkish Government, of acts of pillage and cruelty committed on the Mussulman population in districts occupied by the Russian forces. They have approved your action in bringing to the notice of the Porte cases of such acts alleged to have been committed by the Turkish irregular troops on the Christian population, and they would wish you to continue to do so, as circumstances may require and permit.

They have thought that a due regard to justice and humanity rendered it equally their duty to bring before the Russian Government the most important and well-authenticated instances of outrages committed on the Mussulman inhabitants during the Russian occupation which have been reported to you by British Consular and military officers from the districts in question. Lord A. Loftus has been desired to mention these statements, not as all of them necessarily proving misconduct or connivance on the part of the Russian soldiery, but as calling for investigation, and as showing the direction in which precautions should be taken for the future. Her Majesty's Government would wish you to impress upon Mr. Blunt and Colonel Lennox, and any other officers who may be on the scene of the present conflict, the expediency of testing, as far as lies in their power, the accuracy of the reports which may reach them on this subject, and of endeavouring to ascertain by their own investigations how far those which are received and officially published are free from exaggeration and borne out by the actual facts.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 18.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 203.) *Athens, August 24, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that although military preparations are certainly being carried on throughout Greece with considerable activity, in view of eventualities which are supposed to be possible, I have received renewed assurances from M. Tricoupi, this afternoon, that there is no intention on the part of the Hellenic Government to attack Turkey at present, and that the different Committees are co-operating with the Government and endeavouring to prevent the separate action of their agents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 19.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 204.) *Athens, August 25, 1877.*

My Lord,

M. TRICOUPI was more ready and earnest than usual yesterday in declaring to me that there was no intention to make any attack upon Turkey at present, and I understood from him that the Government and the Committees, acting in concert, were endeavouring to discourage any outbreak in the Hellenic Provinces of Turkey, as well as to prevent any armed bands from crossing the frontier from Greece.

I had questioned him upon the subject in consequence of having seen reports in the Greek newspapers of yesterday morning respecting more than one alleged engagement between Turkish troops and Greek brigands, or so-called insurgents, in the neighbourhood of the frontier.

He was much annoyed at having received, shortly before, two official notes from Photiades Bey, accusing the Hellenic Government of having connived at the violation of the Ottoman frontier, and of having protected the escape of bands who had lifted cattle and committed other worse outrages upon Turkish villages, before being repulsed and pursued by the troops.

Photiades Bey had made those representations in consequence of information which had been sent to him by telegraph from the local Ottoman authorities, and M. Tricoupi said that the facts had been entirely misrepresented; that no bands had crossed the frontier; that the engagements in question must have taken place with Greek subjects of Turkey, or between Greek and Mussulman or Circassian villages, or with bands of brigands; and that as regards those who had escaped with cattle into Greece, the Greek authorities had at once arrested them and initiated judicial proceedings against them, besides restoring the cattle to the Turks.

M. Tricoupi complained very much of the disadvantage at which the Hellenic Government were placed by such official misrepresentations, as the Ottoman Government would not permit the Greek Consular Agents to communicate with their Government by telegraph in cypher, nor indeed to send any telegram of which the local authorities might disapprove. As he had received a telegram from the Consul at Larissa, to the effect that the accusations of the Ottoman authorities in the present instance were unfounded, he presumed, from the fact of such a telegram having been permitted to pass, that those authorities must have been aware that they had been previously misinformed; and he said that he happened to know that Photiades Bey must have been already aware that he was making a representation upon false grounds from a telegram which the Turkish Consul at Lamia had addressed to the Turkish Legation respecting the real facts of the case.

As the reports in the Greek newspapers to which I have alluded appear to refer to several different encounters and outrages near the frontier, which may possibly be brought to your Lordship's notice by Mr. Layard or by Her Majesty's Consular Agents in Thessaly, I have thought it might be of use to inclose the accompanying collection of extracts relating thereto.

That from the "Hora" may almost be taken as official, as it exactly corresponds with some of the explanations which were given to me yesterday by M. Tricoupi, and the newspaper belongs to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

Inclosure in No. 19.

Newspaper Extracts.

From the "Hora" of August 14/26, 1877.

THE Ottoman authorities maliciously represent the events at Passali as having been caused by 120 men who had crossed the frontier from Greece. The letters received yesterday from Thessaly assert that this rumour is entirely false, and unanimously testify that the attack on Passali was, for reasons of vengeance, made by the inhabitants of the neighbouring village of Masli, and that the proprietor of this village was arrested and imprisoned by order of the Ottoman authorities. Whilst the Ottoman authorities endeavoured to accuse the Greek troops on the frontiers of having rendered assistance to the inhabitants of Masli pursued by the Turkish forces, it has now been proved, even by the official reports of the Ottoman employés, that the Greek troops had seized and has spontaneously restored to the Turks the cattle lifted, and that the persons pursued had not been protected, but that twenty of them who had crossed the frontier had been arrested and imprisoned, and handed over to justice, proceedings against them being already instituted.

From the "Stoa" of August $\frac{13}{25}$, 1877.

From letters received yesterday evening from Thessaly to our address, we learn that the Turks see everywhere insurrections and insurgents. Thus Achmet Pasha last week went with a strong force to Hagia, but not finding insurgents, rifled the village of Athanati. It would appear that the first telegram of the Governor of Tricala, and that of yesterday from the Governor of Larissa, both refer to this excursion of Achmet Pasha, as it was spread in Thessaly that he had had an engagement with, and had put to flight, some insurgents, from whom he had taken ten muskets and two loads of ammunition.

Whatever there may be, it is evident that Thessaly has begun to move, and it is not improbable that the oppression and increasing insolence of the Turks since their late success in Bulgaria will hasten the crisis.

From the "Stoa" of August $\frac{14}{26}$, 1877.

Our Lamia correspondent writes to us that last Sunday a considerable body attacked the village of Drachani, close to Domoco, in which Circassians had settled; some houses were burnt, and three or four Circassians were killed. The Turkish authorities of Domoco on hearing this sent a detachment of regular troops, which, after some feeble resistance, repulsed the insurgents. Of these seventeen arrived on the frontier line, and gave themselves up to the Captain of the Greek detachment; the remainder took refuge in the mountain. In this engagement Scondra was wounded.

From the "Ephimeris" of August $\frac{14}{26}$, 1877.

(Private Correspondence of the "Ephimeris.")

Lamia, August $\frac{7}{19}$, 1877.

On the Ottoman side of the entire frontier line are to be found 200 insurgents, escaping from the evils imposed by the Turks. They are divided into three or four small bodies. They can suffer no longer. The night before last a band of certain unknown persons, in ambush about Almyro, were attacked by the officer of Customs and three guards; the last three were killed, the officer succeeded to escape. This was sufficient for the Turks, who immediately decided to arrest, as guilty of brigandage, Scondra and others, but they, foreseeing that they would be victims, assembled armed, and left, after a prolonged engagement, in which Scondra was killed, and the remainder (eighty) joined insurgents under Spanos.

Another band of insurgents, unknown to us, is in the neighbourhood of Aghios Joannon; we do not know their number. Finally, every day from this, cause having been once given, we shall witness the like. The Christians cannot suffer any longer; and the most bellicose are the first to throw themselves headlong to give the pass-word. For the present there are about 200 without a leader, as I have already told you, that is, without a recognized leader.

From the same Paper.

The Governor of Thessaly has telegraphed here to the Ottoman Minister, Photiades Bey, that a band of about seventy armed men attacked the village Plochani, inhabited lately by Circassian settlers, some of whom were ill-treated. And by the Hellenic authorities on the frontier it is announced to us that seventeen men of this band, who apparently was repulsed by the Turks, were arrested by the Greek military detachment on the frontier.

No. 20.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 205. Confidential.)
Athens, August 25, 1877.

My Lord,

I WAS confidentially informed five or six days ago that some sixty or seventy men belonging to the reserve of the Greek army had deserted and escaped from Chalcis in a sailing-boat with their arms and uniforms, that discontent at the want and discomfort to which they had been exposed from the defective preparations of the authorities had been the cause of their desertion, and that their object was to effect a landing on some part of the Turkish coast.

As soon as the news of their escape was telegraphed to Athens, a gun-boat was ordered to get up steam and to endeavour to intercept the expedition, which, from its equipments, would naturally lead to the suspicion that it had been organized and despatched with the direct consent and connivance of the Hellenic Government.

I have since learnt that the gun-boat did not succeed in its mission, and that the deserters are supposed to have landed somewhere in the neighbourhood of Mount Athos.

I do not know whether they can be the same band of Greeks, which, according to information communicated to me confidentially by Mr. Layard, had, after landing on the coast, marched upon a village near Larissa, and been subsequently driven back by the Turkish troops.

I may add that, whilst volunteers are arriving from all parts for the Greek army, a great many desertions are said to take place amongst the reserves, who were called out before any proper preparations had been made for them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 21.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 207.)
Athens, August 25, 1877.

My Lord,

M. TRICOUPI informed me yesterday that M. Condouriotis had been invited by the German Ambassador at Constantinople to sign a joint representation to the Porte respecting the cruelties which had been inflicted upon the Russian wounded and prisoners, with a view to their more humane treatment in future.

M. Tricoupi did not know whether Mr. Layard had signed the representation in question; but as he knew that the Representatives of Austria-Hungary, France, and Italy had signed it, he had approved of M. Condouriotis following the same course.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 22.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 384.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, September 2, 1877.

A TELEGRAM from Mehemet Ali Pasha, dated yesterday, informs the Porte that a serious engagement had taken place at Cadikeui, near Rustchuk. The Russian forces at the beginning of the action consisted of one regiment of cavalry, one regiment of infantry, and a detachment of Bulgarian auxiliaries. The fight lasted several hours. During the action the Russians had received a reinforcement of six battalions, but they were completely defeated. Their losses amount to 300 killed and wounded. A great many arms have fallen into the hands of the Turks; also 2,000 head of cattle.

No. 23.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 2.)

St. Petersburgh, September 2, 1877, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

GRAND DUKE NICOLAS telegraphs, dated September 1, 4·30 P.M.:—

"In front of Rustchuk army, as also on Osman Bazar road, in Balkan passes, and before Ladicha, all has been quiet. On August 31, Turkish force from Rustchuk threw back our advanced guard from Kadikoi, but reinforcements speedily arriving, the town was again retaken. On August 31, before Plevna, several Turkish attacks were repulsed, and our troops threw back the Turks, numbering about 25,000. Our loss was about 600 men."

No. 24.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 2.)

Bucharest, September 2, 1877, 6·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)

A PORTION of the garrison of Silistria is establishing a bridge over the Danube, a short distance lower down the river, opposite the road leading to Kalarasin. No troops but Cossacks in that district. Great alarm is felt at Bucharest, but probably without much reason.

No. 25.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 338. Confidential.)

Berlin, August 31, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 312 of the 27th instant, respecting the instructions sent to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Belgrade to urge the Servian Government not to commit any act of aggression against Turkey, I asked the German Minister for Foreign Affairs whether his Excellency had heard from Belgrade that the Servian Government were seriously preparing to declare war against Turkey, and, if so, whether the German Government intended to address any communication on the subject to their Consul-General at Belgrade.

Herr von Bülow said that the German Government saw no reason yet to depart from the neutral attitude they wished to observe in the present war, and that they would, therefore, not remonstrate against the military preparations in Servia for the present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 26.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 343. Secret.)

Berlin, September 1, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 448 of the 18th ultimo to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and to my despatch No. 329 of the 24th instant, respecting the representation made by the German Government to the Porte on the subject of the Geneva Convention, I have the honour to inclose herewith some extracts from the official newspapers on the same subject.

The object of the German Government in asking all the Powers who have Representatives at Constantinople to join in this remonstrance is to obtain a European condemnation of the Turkish method of carrying on war, which can be used as an argument against the Turkish administration on some future occasion in the interest of Russia and Austria.

Since the battle of Plevna has proved that Russia is not the dangerous rival of Germany she was thought to be, and that Turkey has shown her unexpected military strength, the German and Austrian Governments have concluded that their neutrality must be more benevolent towards Russia than towards Turkey.

It is felt that Turkish victories prolong the struggle and lead to no solution, and that a lasting peace can only be arrived at through a complete victory of the Russian over the Turkish army.

The northern alliance cannot allow one of its members to be beaten by Turkey, and we must, therefore, expect to see Germany and Austria gradually give more moral support to Russia than was originally intended at the beginning of the war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Extracts from Official Newspapers.

"LE Gouvernement Impérial a reçu avis des Cabinets de toutes les Grandes Puissances qui sont en relations diplomatiques avec la Porte, que leurs Représentants respectifs à Constantinople ont été chargés de se joindre aux représentations (faites par le Gouvernement Allemand) contre le traitement cruel de soldats Russes fait prisonniers et blessés,—en s'appuyant sur les dispositions de la Convention de Genève.—D'après les nouvelles reçues jusqu'ici, les Représentants de la Belgique, des Pays-Bas, de la Suède et du Portugal, accrédités à Constantinople, ont été autorisés par leurs Gouvernements à faire des démarches dans le même sens."—("Moniteur de l'Empire Allemand.")

A propos de ces représentations faites à Constantinople par le Gouvernement Impérial, les journaux Allemands rappellent en quels termes le Roi de Prusse (Empereur Guillaume) a signé, dans le temps, la Convention de Genève. Ces termes, au-dessous de l'acte rédigé en Français, sont ainsi conçus:

"En conséquence de quoi nous l'avons approuvée, confirmée, et ratifiée, comme nous l'approuvons, la confirmons et la ratifions par les présentes pour nous et nos successeurs, en promettant en foi et parole de Roi d'en faire accomplir scrupuleusement toutes les stipulations, sans y contrevenir, ni permettre qu'il y soit contrevenu."

La "Correspondance Provinciale" reproduit la note ci-dessus du "Moniteur de l'Empire," et ajoute:

"On voit par cette communication que les Grandes Puissances et plusieurs autres Gouvernements Européens ont trouvé fondée la démarche que le Gouvernement Impérial a faite près de la Porte en rappelant à celle-ci qu'elle devrait faire observer par ses armées les dispositions de la Convention de Genève, à laquelle la Turquie a elle-même adhéré le 22 Août, 1865. Les Puissances n'auraient pu se joindre à cette démarche du Gouvernement Allemand si elles n'eussent été convaincues que la Convention de Genève était violée par la manière dont les Turcs font la guerre.

"Il s'agit principalement de l'Article VI de cette Convention, dont voici le texte:

"'Les militaires blessés ou malades doivent être recueillis et soignés, à quelque nation qu'ils appartiennent. Les Commandants-en-chef auront la faculté de renvoyer immédiatement aux avant-postes ennemis les blessés de l'ennemi pendant le combat, si les circonstances le permettent et d'un commun accord entre les deux parties. Les blessés qui après guérison seront reconnus impropres au service, devront être renvoyés dans leur pays. Les autres peuvent y être également renvoyés sous la condition de ne pas reprendre les armes pendant la durée de la guerre. Les transports de blessés enlevés du champ de bataille, ainsi que le personnel qui les conduit, doivent être protégés par une complète neutralité.'"

"Au moment même où tous les Gouvernements Européens interviennent auprès de la Porte pour une observation plus stricte des prescriptions de la Convention de Genève, l'Ambassade Turque, à Berlin, nous adresse, en nous priant de le publier, un

appel de la Société Ottomane de secours aux blessés militaires, constituée d'après la Convention de Genève."—("Gazette Générale de l'Allemagne du Nord.")

No. 27.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 3.)

(No. 468.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 28, 1877.

My Lord,

I PROFITED of an opportunity yesterday in conversation with M. de Giers to mention to him in a friendly and unofficial manner the evils which may result from the destruction by Russian cruizers of small vessels laden with the produce of the villages along the coast, referring more particularly to the incidents reported in Mr. Layard's despatch No. 905 of the 7th instant, copy of which was inclosed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 326 of 22nd August.

I observed to him that on the coast of the Crimea there was valuable private property exposed to destruction from Turkish ships of war, but which had not been attacked from an unwillingness on the part of the Turkish naval authorities to inflict wanton injury upon it. I further observed that the small coasting vessels and their cargoes which had been destroyed mostly belonged to Christians for whose interests the war was undertaken.

In the present state of bitterness and animosity between the contending parties, it was desirable, I observed, to avoid any acts which could pour oil on the flame, and which might lead to acts of retaliation and the wanton destruction of private property.

In stating this to his Excellency I added that it was not with a view to animadvert on or contest the right of the Russian cruizers but merely to suggest the policy of foregoing the exercise of that right, if it were likely to produce acts of retaliation of a greater magnitude.

It was, I said, in the interest of Russian property and with a view to prevent objectless destruction that I had ventured to mention the subject to his Excellency.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 28.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September* 3.)

Constantinople, le 29 *Août*, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

VOUS savez que les Russes cherchent à échapper au châtiment de la conscience publique, en prétendant que les atrocités commises sur la population Musulmane sont l'œuvre des Bulgares et des Cosaques irréguliers.

A supposer même que ces atrocités fussent l'œuvre exclusive des Bulgares et des Cosaques irréguliers, n'est-ce pas l'autorité militaire Russe qui fournit des armes à ces Bulgares et à ces irréguliers? N'est-ce pas elle qui enlève aux Musulmans leurs armes pour les distribuer aux Bulgares? N'est-ce pas encore l'autorité militaire Russe qui a constitué, organisé et dressé au maniement des armes, sous le titre de "Légion de Vengeance," une milice locale, et qui assiste, sans prendre aucune mesure contraire, à l'œuvre de pillage et de meurtre que cette milice a reçu mission d'accomplir contre les Musulmans désarmés et contre leurs femmes et leurs enfants!

Les vrais coupables ou les plus coupables ne sont pas les barbares dont on a excité les instincts féroces, mais ceux qui, ayant en mains l'autorité et la force, s'en servent pour organiser et préparer la dévastation de toute une contrée et l'extermination de toute une race.

En ce qui touche ce qui s'est passé à Sistow et à Tirnovo, s'il est vrai que nous n'avons pas vu de nos propres yeux les troupes régulières Russes saccageant et pillant tous les biens de la malheureuse population, des officiers et des particuliers étrangers qui ont assisté à ce spectacle navrant ont confirmé de leur témoignage impartial la réalité de ces actes de vandalisme.

J'ai cru devoir vous entretenir des considérations qui précèdent afin que vous y conformiez votre language dans vos conversations avec le monde politique et les directeurs des organes de la publicité.

No. 29.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September* 3.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 30 *Août*, 1877.

REÇU télégramme No. Spécial 447.

Je m'empresserai de le soumettre à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan. En attendant, veuillez exprimer à Lord Derby les remercîments de la Sublime Porte pour les conseils amicaux qu'il veut bien nous donner, et que nous sommes heureux de considérer comme une nouvelle preuve de l'intérêt bienveillant que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique porte à l'Empire Ottoman. Le Cabinet d'Athènes ne cesse de nous donner également des assurances sur son désir d'entretenir des rapports de bon voisinage avec nous. Je dois vous déclarer formellement que le Gouvernement Impérial est, de son côté, animé bien sincèrement du même désir, et qu'il n'a aucune intention hostile contre la Grèce. Malheureusement, les faits ne répondent pas aux assurances pacifiques du Gouvernement Hellénique. En effet, les bandes qui ont franchies la frontière n'ont pas encore été rappelées; leurs chefs restent impunis; de nouvelles bandes s'organisent et se forment librement; des volontaires continuent à être clandestinement recrutés en masse parmi nos populations, ce qui constitue une violation flagrante du droit international; les Comités révolutionnaires s'agitent avec une activité toujours croissante, sans que les autorités Helléniques, qui sont parfaitement au courant de ces agissements, usent du droit que leur confère la constitution même du pays pour sévir contre des menées qui touchent directement aux intérêts communs des deux États; et enfin, bien que la liberté de la presse en Grèce assure aux journaux une indépendance complète, les organes officiels du Cabinet laissent passer ces feuilles sans rien dire contre leurs écarts de langage qui surexcitent l'esprit public. Tant que cet état des choses durera, le Gouvernement Impérial considérera la tranquillité de ses provinces limitrophes comme sérieusement menacée, et ne saurait par conséquent le laisser passer impargu. Dans un moment où l'Empire se trouve aux prises avec un ennemi fort et puissant, ce n'est certes pas la Sublime Porte qui provoquera de nouvelles complications; mais, lorsque, sous ses propres yeux, on cherche à tirer parti de cette situation, et que tout est mis en œuvre pour soulever une contrée qui jouit de l'ordre et de la tranquillité, n'est-ce pas un devoir sacré pour un Gouvernement soucieux de la sécurité de ses populations de ne pas laisser par des demi-mesures le mal s'aggraver davantage, et de tâcher de le couper dans sa racine?

En soumettant les considérations qui précèdent à la bienveillante appréciation de Lord Derby, vous voudrez bien lui signaler surtout ce dernier point avec tous les développements qu'il comporte.

No. 30.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 3.)

(Particulière.)

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le* 31 *Août*, 1877.

AUSSITOT que j'ai en reçu la lettre particulière que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'écrire, le 29 de ce mois, pour m'exprimer le désir de connaître l'opinion du Gouvernement Impérial sur les assurances données par le Cabinet d'Athènes, j'ai eu télégraphié le contenu à son Excellence Server Pacha, et je me réserve de communiquer à votre Excellence toute réponse qui me sera parvenue de la part du Ministère Impérial sur ce sujet.

Votre, &c.

(Signé) MUSURUS.

No. 31.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.[*]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 3, 1877, 3·15 P.M.

I HAVE received the following from Layard:—

"*Septembre* 1, 1877, 7 P.M.

"Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs asks whether Greek Government have given any distinct assurances to Her Majesty's Government that Greece will not attack

[*] Repeated to Constantinople.

Turkey or endeavour to cause her embarrassment by conniving at attempts to raise Greek population, and, if so, whether your Lordship will authorize me to make an official communication to that effect to the Porte.

"I have told Server Pasha that the last accounts from Her Majesty's Minister at Athens lead me to believe that there is much less danger now than there was a short time ago of an attack on Turkey."

With reference to Mr. Stuart's despatches Nos. 203 and 204, will Greek Government authorize Her Majesty's Government to give assurances in their name to the Porte that they will not attack Turkey, or connive at attempts to stir up insurrection in the Greek provinces.

No. 32.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, September 3, 1877, 5·50 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to the Sultan's complaints respecting preparations made by Servia to attack Turkey, reported in your telegram No. 377, you are authorized to inform His Majesty of the instructions sent to Mr. White on the 23rd ultimo on this subject. I have also requested the French Government to remonstrate, and they state that they have already done so, but are not hopeful that their representations will be successful.

No. 33.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, September 3, 1877.

(No. 489.)

Sir,

WITH reference to your telegram No. 377 of the 31st, stating that the Sultan had spoken to your Excellency about Servia, complaining of the preparations which are being made for an attack on Turkey, and requesting you to bring the subject to the notice of Her Majesty's Government, and to say that His Majesty appealed to them to prevent Servia attacking Turkey, I have to state to your Excellency that you may inform His Majesty of the instructions which were sent to Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Belgrade, by telegraph, on the 23rd ultimo, on this subject, and which were repeated to your Excellency on the same day.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 34.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, September 3, 1877.

(No. 490. Confidential.)

Sir,

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me to-day and communicated to me a telegram from Server Pasha, stating that accounts from all sides tended to corroborate the news of the hostile attitude of Servia, and that the certainty that she would, sooner or later, take part in the war, might, perhaps, oblige the Porte to take the initiative in hostilities against the Principality. Mussurus Pasha was desired to ask confidentially for my opinion on the subject.

I told his Excellency that I could not judge of the military situation, but that, as regarded the political question, it was evident that the Porte would put itself in the wrong if it made war without being attacked, or at least without the certainty that it would be so. I pointed out that it did not appear that any hostile decision had been actually taken by the Servian Government, and that, under these circumstances, another Turkish victory might possibly determine Prince Milan to adhere to a peaceable policy.

The proceedings of the Servian Government should be vigilantly watched, but

nothing ought to be done on the part of the Porte that might be taken advantage of at Belgrade as a pretext for declaring war.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 35.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 491.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 3, 1877.

THE Turkish Ambassador left with me this afternoon the telegram, of which I inclose a copy, relative to the unsatisfactory conduct of the Greek Government towards the Porte.

In a previous interview, of which I have given an account in my despatch to your Excellency No. 467 of the 28th ultimo, I had told Musurus Pasha that, in my opinion, his Government would be justified in taking precautions against hostile action on the part of Greece, and watching vigilantly the proceedings of that Power, but that I advised them to avoid, as far as possible, anything tending to provocation.

Upon the present occasion, after reading the telegram communicated to me, I said I was ready to bring the complaints of the Porte before the Greek Government, and to impress upon the latter the expediency of maintaining an attitude of neutrality.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 36.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 329.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 3, 1877.

THE German Government having received reports from their officers at the Russian head-quarters tending to show that Russian soldiers who fell into the hands of the Turkish regular troops in the battles at Plevna and in the Balkans were mutilated and killed, have instructed the German Ambassador at Constantinople to bring the fact to the notice of the Porte, and to express the hope that the Turkish commanders will prevent the repetition of such deeds as contrary to the Geneva Convention to which the Porte has adhered.

At the request of the German Government Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has also been instructed to urge that, if such acts have been committed, the strictest orders should be issued to prevent a recurrence of them.

Her Majesty's Government believe that it is for the interest of both belligerents equally, no less than for that of humanity and civilization in general, that attention should be drawn to any well-authenticated instances of unnecessary cruelty committed by the troops on either side, either on their antagonists or on the population of the country in which the present conflict is taking place. They received with much satisfaction the statement made to them by Colonel Wellesley of his conviction that the reports of cruelties committed by the Russian regular troops were without foundation, and they have given to that statement full publicity. They do not doubt that any different conduct on the part of his troops would be severely repressed by the Emperor himself, should it come to his knowledge. Still from the accounts which have reached Her Majesty's Government, it would seem that acts of plunder, and in some cases of great barbarity, have been committed in parts of the country occupied by the Russian forces. These acts have naturally led to retaliation on the part of the Mussulmans as soon as the Russian forces have retired. Your Excellency has been furnished with copies of the reports sent home by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, containing the evidence of acts of this nature which have come to the knowledge of Mr. Blunt and of other English Consular and military officers, and Her Majesty's Government feel confident that neither the Emperor nor his Government will misunderstand their motive in instructing you to mention the principal cases, not as all of them necessarily proving misconduct or connivance on the part of the Russian soldiery, but as calling for investigation, and as showing the direction in which precautions should be taken for the future.

They would wish your Excellency particularly to draw attention to the statement made in the last paragraph but two of Mr. Blunt's despatch of August 6 (forwarded in

Mr. Layard's despatch No. 921 of the 10th ultimo), to the effect that the ambulance of the National Aid Society had been deliberately fired upon by Russian troops, when near Eski-Zaghra, on the 30th of July. Having made representations to the Porte as to alleged violations of the Geneva Convention by Turkish troops, Her Majesty's Government feel it their duty to bring before the Russian Government any evidence of similar infractions by Russian forces.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 37.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 50.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 3, 1877.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of two despatches which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, together with the communications from the Turkish Government referred to therein, complaining of the conduct of the Greek Government, who, it is alleged, while giving assurances of their pacific and friendly intentions, do nothing to repress the agitation against Turkey which prevails in Greece, or the inroads which are made across the Greek frontier upon the neighbouring Turkish provinces.

I have to request that you will bring the substance of the statements contained in Server Pasha's telegrams to the knowledge of the Greek Government, and that you will impress upon them the expediency of maintaining an attitude of strict and impartial neutrality. As one of the Powers who have guaranteed the independence of the Greek kingdom, and who have rendered themselves responsible for the Greek debt, Great Britain has a right to expect that King George's advisers will not be induced by the desire of national aggrandisement to involve the country in a ruinous conflict, and that Greek subjects will be restrained from provoking the Porte to measures of hostility by acts of unauthorized and private warfare.

Her Majesty's Government have received with satisfaction the explanations and assurances on this subject offered by M. Tricoupi to Mr. Stuart. They trust that there will be no want of good-will and energy on the part of the Greek Government in acting up to the intentions which they have avowed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 38.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 71. Political.)
My Lord, *Aleih, August 18, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 67 of the 3rd instant I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch and its inclosure, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting the outbreak of hostilities between the Moslems of Sahioun and the Ansairyeh of the mountains in the district of Lattakia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Aleih, August 18, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Vitalé reporting that the civil war between the Moslems and Ansariyeh, which was expected, has actually broken out and may lead to serious consequences unless the authorities are able, with the comparatively insignificant forces at their disposal, to restore order.

Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Blanche reports from Tripoli the departure of the General of Brigade, Akif Pasha, and the Mutasserif of Tripoli for the scene of hostilities with a reinforcement of about 250 men, of whom 110 are cavalry, and the remainder Mustafiz.

Mr. Blanche reports that the insurrection in the north is assuming very serious proportions, but that he has no precise details. He informs me, however, that in the part of the country in the neighbourhood of Tripoli, *i.e.*, Tortosa, Safita, &c., the public tranquillity has not been disturbed since the expedition of Shakir Bey, reported in my despatch of the 22nd ultimo.

It is a satisfaction to learn, by the concluding paragraph of Mr. Vitalé's despatch, that the Christians in the disturbed districts have been hitherto respected by both parties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

Vice-Consul Vitalé to Consul-General Eldridge.

M. le Consul-Général, *Lattaquié, le 14 Août*, 1877.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que depuis mon rapport du 16 Juillet dernier, les Musulmans de Sahioun ont travaillé à créer la désunion entre les divers parties des montagnards Ansaryéhs qui menaçaient leur canton et à se procurer l'assistance de leurs coreligionnaires et l'appui du Gouvernement, et ils ont réussi; car d'abord plusieurs centaines de Musulmans sont allés au secours de Sahioun, et ensuite le Gouvernement y a envoyé quelques soldats Réifs et un escadron des dragons du Liban. Même les deux Caïmacams de Lattaquié et de Gébelé s'y sont rendus et le premier y est resté avec le Lieutenant-Colonel Mustafa Bey. Les montagnards du district de Lattaquié ayant promis de ne pas attaquer Sahioun les Musulmans étrangers qui s'y trouvaient sont partis; et juste quand on croyait que tout était calmé, des montagnards Ansaryéhs (les Kalbyés) du district de Gébelé se sont mis en marche contre les Omeniens, c'est-à-dire les montagnards du district de Lattaquié, qui s'étaient déclarés en amitié avec Sahioun, et aidés par d'autres montagnards de ce même district, ils ont incendié plusieurs villages et ruiné leurs habitants.

Non contents de cela ils ont tenté l'attaque de Sahioun en commençant par surprendre le village de Défil, où étaient campés les soldats qui fort heureusement ont réussi de les repousser avec des grandes pertes.

A la suite de ce combat plusieurs villages du Canton de Bet-el-Cheff, voisinage de Sahioun, ont été incendiés et saccagés par les Musulmans de Sahioun, et les habitants Ansaryéhs en ont pris la fuite.

En conséquence de ce qui a eu lieu, Akif Pacha, Commandant Militaire de Beyrout, et Chaker Bey, Mutesarrif de Tripoli, sont sur le point de venir ici et à Gébelé avec quelques soldats, d'après ce qu'on m'a dit, et je trouve que c'est très à propos; autrement les montagnards de Kalbyés seraient capables de renouveler leurs attaques contre ceux d'Omèniens, sinon contre Sahioun et les troupes qui s'y trouvent.

Je suis heureux de vous informer, M. le Consul-Général, que le peu des Chrétiens qui sont parsemés çà et là dans ces villages ravagés n'ont eu rien à souffrir ni par les Ansaryéhs ni par les Musulmans.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) N. VITALI.

No. 39.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 72. Political.)
My Lord, *Aleih, August 19, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 64 of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch and its

inclosures which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting on the unsatisfactory state of affairs in the district of Akkar, to the north of Tripoli.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 39.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Layard.

Aleih, August 19, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to call the attention of your Excellency to the inclosed extract from a despatch, with translations of its inclosures, which I have received from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Blanche, reporting the state of affairs in the district of Akkar, in the vicinity of Tripoli, where there is certainly much room for improvement in the administration. The outrage on the church, alluded to by Mr. Blanche, was reported in my despatch of the 23rd ultimo.

The matter is difficult to be dealt with on the spot, as, in order to ameliorate the position of these Christians, a radical reform in the administration of the district appears to be absolutely necessary, and which Shakir Bey, the Mutasserif of Tripoli, within whose jurisdiction Akkar is situated, seems unable to effect, although, according to Mr. Blanche, he is anxious to do so.

It would, therefore, require the intervention of the superior authority of the Governor-General, who is unfortunately absent at Constantinople, and probably the Mushir Izzet Pasha, who is now acting for Omer Fevzi Pasha, might not consider himself authorized to take any very energetic steps to remedy the evil, as his tenor of office is uncertain. I will, however, take an early opportunity of recommending the matter to the serious consideration of his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 39.

Vice-Consul Blanche to Consul-General Eldridge.

(Extrait.)

MAIS nous avons un autre point de notre province où la situation devient de plus en plus intolérable pour les Chrétiens. C'est dans la partie d'Akkar, qui porte le nom de Draïb. La majeure partie de la population y est Chrétienne. Mais il se trouve une minorité de Musulmans, et entre autres une famille de Beiks qui est depuis longtemps en possession de l'autorité locale, et qui exerce sur le pays les plus funestes actions.

C'est la famille Abboud. Les requêtes ci-incluses, qui me sont adressées par les Chrétiens de ce Canton, vous feront connaître une partie des excès auxquels se livre le Mudir Ahmed El Abboud sur ses administrés Chrétiens. C'est là qu'a eu lieu le pillage de l'église de Munjaz, dont je vous ai entretenu dernièrement. Depuis on est venu couper les arbres qui entourent cette église; et il n'est pas douteux que le Mudir ne soit le complice, et même le chef occulte des bandits qui font le brigandage.

Le pays d'Akkar est administré par un Caïmmacam, qui est un Osmanli, étranger, et qui est d'une complète nullité pour maintenir l'ordre. Le district se divise en trois Cantons, tous en majeure partie Chrétiens: le Kaïté, le Djonny, et le Draïb. Dans les deux premiers, il n'y a pas de Mudirs, agent de l'autorité; mais la tranquillité y règne, grâce à l'influence de Mohammed-beik-el-Mohammed, qui n'a aucun titre officiel. Je vous l'ai déjà signalé dans mon rapport du 10 Juillet dernier.

Dans le Draïb seulement il y a un Mudir officiellement nommé. C'est une complaisance de l'autorité pour les principaux de notre Médjlis qui protègent la famille Abboud. Et ce Mudir est le fléau du pays qu'il administre. Sa brutalité envers les Chrétiens et ses instincts de rapine semblent avoir perdu toute mesure, depuis que les événements ont ruiné la ferveur Musulmane. Il commet chaque jour les plus impudentes exactions, sans que l'autorité de Tripoli fasse rien pour le réprimer. J'ai reconnu l'inutilité des recommandations faites à ce sujet.

La bonne volonté de Chakir Bey n'est pas douteuse; mais elle se brise évidemment contre la volonté contraire qui règne dans les Conseils.

Je me permets, M. le Consul-Général, de recommander à votre bienveillant appui

cette population Chrétienne digne de tout intérêt. Le remède à cette situation serait la destitution d'Ahmed-el-Abboud de toutes fonctions, et la nomination comme Caïmacam d'un homme du pays, capable de contenir les bandits dans le devoir. Le vœu général est de voir Mohammed Beik-el-Mohammed appelé à ces fonctions. Je crois aussi que, dans les circonstances présentes, ce serait l'homme indiqué pour rendre la sécurité à ce malheureux canton.

Inclosure 3 in No. 39.

Petition presented to Vice-Consul Blanche on the 9th August, 1877.

(Traduction.)

NOUS, Soussignés, étant persuadés comme tout le reste du monde, de la généreuse protection que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique étend sur tous les Chrétiens, nous permettons aujourd'hui de porter confidentiellement à votre connaissance nos plaintes des malheurs dont nous sommes l'objet et que nous attendons à tout moment.

Vous n'ignorez pas, M. le Consul, que dernièrement dans nos villages Chrétiens de Dercyb, les vols, les injustices, les vexations, les vols des églises, les actes de brigandage sur les routes publiques, le manque de sureté sur les biens, la vie, et l'honneur et autres pareils faits, se sont sensiblement augmentés, à tel point que nous aurions quitté notre pays, si nos moyens nous permettaient de le faire. Vu les circonstances dont nous sommes entourés, nous croyons voir commencer prochainement parmi nous le pillage et le massacre. De là notre situation devient de plus en plus perplexe et inquiétante.

Craignant d'être misérablement sacrifiés, nous prenons la liberté de proposer un moyen que nous considérons pour le moment comme étant le seul capable de nous rassurer provisoirement. Ce moyen, M. le Consul, serait la nomination d'un Mudir indigène, capable, honnête et jouissant de la confiance publique, qui s'engage, à votre connaissance, auprès du Mutasserifat de répondre de la vie, des biens et de l'honneur des habitants. Si l'appui précité que nous sollicitons ne nous est pas prochainement accordé vous aurez à entendre des rapports très-fâcheux sur notre situation.

Nous vous prions, M. le Consul, de vouloir bien garder nos plaintes dans le plus profond secret, leur divulgation ne ferait que redoubler nos malheurs, et rendre notre situation plus critique et plus malheureuse.

Nous vous prions très-humblement, M. le Consul, de vouloir bien nous accorder votre bienveillante appui et nous délivrer de l'état malheureux où nous nous trouvons et dont, pour notre plus grand malheur, nous n'osons pas nous plaindre.

Inclosure 4 in No. 39.

Petition presented to Vice-Consul Blanche.

(Traduction.)

NOUS prenons la liberté, M. le Consul, de porter à votre connaissance nos plaintes des injustices dont nous sommes devenues la victime depuis la nomination de Ahmed Bey El-Abboud comme Mudir de notre Canton. Dès qu'il a été nommé, ce monsieur ne cesse de persécuter notre village; tous les deux jours, il envoie chez nous un de ses enfants avec quatre cavaliers qui nous forcent à leur fournir les frais qu'ils exigent.

Depuis quelques jours, sous prétexte de vouloir percevoir les impôts, Ahmed Bey est venu lui-même dans notre village accompagné de vingt-cinq cavaliers et, après y avoir passé deux jours, nous fûmes étonnés d'apprendre qu'il venait nous demander des secours pécuniaires pour achever, dit-il, une batisse qu'il avait commencée. Notre pauvreté et l'insuccès de nos récoltes ne nous permirent pas de nous rendre à sa demande; voyant son espoir déçu, Ahmed Bey se mit en colère, destitua arbitrairement le Mukhtar du village et le remplaça par un autre incapable de remplir les devoirs de sa charge. Le public n'a pas en lui assez de confiance pour lui verser les impôts et ainsi la perception des taxes a été suspendue.

Nous vous prions très humblement, M. le Consul, de vouloir bien intervenir à l'effet d'alléger nos maux.

(Suivent 15 signatures et cachets.)

No. 40.

Consul Moore to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 13. Political.) *Jerusalem, August 24, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that public security has ceased to be disturbed since the administration of this sandjak was assumed by the new Governor, Raouf Pasha.

While at Gaza the Pasha, who had taken his measures beforehand, summoned to his presence the Chiefs of the belligerent tribes of Teyaha and Tarabin; they obeyed the summons and resorted to the usual and hitherto effective expedient of bribery, but unsuccessfully. The Governor then secured the persons of the Chiefs, five on each side, and sent them to Jerusalem, where they will be detained for the present, and an inquiry instituted into the cause of their differences and they themselves put upon their trial for their late acts of brigandage. It is very improbable that in the absence of their Chiefs the tribes will give any trouble.

At the same time it cannot be doubted that the news of the continuous successes of the Ottoman arms has contributed to the maintenance of tranquillity.

The towns of Palestine are now garrisoned exclusively by the men of the Moustahfiz.

The drought of last winter has resulted in deficient grain crops, and prices are already double the average. To this is to be added the general depression caused by the war. I, therefore, fear that much distress will ere long be felt, particularly by the many hundreds of Mussulman families of the poorer classes and peasantry left in destitution by the departure of about 5,000 of the able-bodied of their men as Redifs to the seat of war. I propose to act in concert with some English resident gentlemen to try, by an appeal for funds in England, to alleviate some of this distress.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NOEL TEMPLE MOORE.

No. 41.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September 4.)

Constantinople, le 29 Août, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

LES informations que nous parviennent de tous côtés confirment tout ce que Lord Derby vous a dit sur l'attitude hostile de la Servie.

Cette certitude sur la participation de la Servie à la guerre nous obligera peut-être de prendre l'initiative des hostilités contre la Principauté. Veuillez sonder confidentiellement Lord Derby, et me télégraphier l'opinion de son Excellence à cet égard.

No. 42.

The Earl of Derby to General Menabrea.

Foreign Office, September 4, 1877.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

I HAVE had under my consideration the communication which your Excellency was pleased to make to me on the 29th ultimo, in which I am informed that the Representative of His Italian Majesty at Constantinople had been instructed by his Excellency Signor Melegari to make formal and peremptory representations to the Sublime Porte with regard to the inefficiency of the blockade established by Turkey of the Russian coasts of the Black Sea.

Your Excellency was at the same time pleased to recall to my notice the reply given in the House of Commons by Mr. Bourke to a question put by Sir Charles Dilke as to the efficiency of the Turkish blockade.

In reply to your Excellency's inquiry whether the Government of Her Britannic Majesty have addressed to the Ottoman Government similar representations to those made by the Government of His Majesty the King of Italy, I have now the honour to state to your Excellency that no further representation has been addressed by Her Majesty's Government to the Porte in regard to the Black Sea blockade since the date

of Mr. Bourke's speech, nor have they any present intention of doing so. Information had reached them that several Greek vessels had cleared and entered the port of Taganrog after the declaration of the blockade, and Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople was directed to bring this fact to the notice of the Porte.

The Turkish Government admitted that one or two passes had been given to vessels under the Greek flag, and that the proceeding was irregular. Measures were taken to prevent the repetition of this irregularity, and assurances were given to Mr. Layard that it was never the intention of the Porte to show a preference to the flag of any particular nation.

Mr. Bourke stated that Her Majesty's Government were not prepared to hold that the blockade was not in conformity with the Declaration of Paris, and no information has reached Her Majesty's Government since the date of his speech which would lead them to modify their opinion or to join in any such formal and peremptory representations as the Italian Representative at Constantinople has been instructed to make.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 43.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 385.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 3, 1877.*

WITH reference to questions mentioned in my telegram No. 377 of 31st, Austrian Ambassador has to-day assured Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs that Austrian Government still consider Russia bound by her promise not to send troops through Servian territory, and that Turkey may take measures to meet an attack on her by Servia, avoiding any answer as to what Austria would do in case of such attack.

No. 44.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 386. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 3, 1877.*

PHOTIADES BEY will be replaced at Athens by Turkhan Bey, now at Berlin. Aarifi Pasha, recently Minister for Foreign Affairs, will go to Paris, and Essad Bey, now Minister at Rome, as Ambassador at Vienna.

No. 45.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, September 4, 1877.*

I AM informed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that the military camps here and in Kermanshah and Irak are to be broken up in a few days, the only one to be maintained being that of 8,000 men, established near Oroomiah, to maintain order in Konynaish districts.

Communicated to Viceroy.

No. 46.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, September 4, 1877.*

NEGOTIATIONS with Turkomans of Merve, referred to in my telegram of August 8, have fallen through; but Governor of Khorassan has been authorized to send five of the Chiefs to Tehran to discuss terms here.

Should Persia succeed in obtaining the allegiance of Merve the arrangement would probably be favourably viewed by Russia, as it would unquestionably prevent the place

from falling into other hands, whilst it would allow her to remain inactive for the present in that quarter, feeling assured that she could wrest or obtain possession of it hereafter from Persia when convenient.

Communicated to Viceroy.

No. 47.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 97. Political.)
Scutari, August 27, 1877.

My Lord,

IN my despatch, Political, No. 95 of the 31st ultimo, I had the honour to give an account of the kind of encounters that were taking place on the Montenegrin frontiers, and although they have since continued with sufficient frequency, they have not been of an importance to authorize me to trouble your Lordship with reports of them.

On the 21st instant, however, a raid was undertaken by the Turks against the Montenegrin village of Beri, near Podgoritza, which I have reason to believe has been magnified into a serious military operation, and I therefore venture to give the following summary of it.

All the Bashi-Bazouks of Podgoritza, composed of Toschs, Dibriotes, and Roman Catholic mountaineers, amounting to about 3,000 men, under the command of Brigadier-General Haki Pasha, were marched at daylight from Podgoritza, by Ljeskopolje, to Beri. Two battalions of regulars were held in readiness as reserves on the Veli B'rdo, under the immediate orders of Lieutenant-General Hussein Husni Pasha, who was also directing the fire of the Azizieh fort, under the protection of which the irregulars effected their advance.

The Turks were at first met only by the inhabitants of the village, who made a gallant stand behind their stone church, but after some time they had to retire. The Mahommedans were about to burn the church, but desisted when the Roman Catholic mountaineers, who had been foremost in the fight, declared that they would withdraw if the building was touched.

Towards the middle of the day, the Montenegrins, having been considerably reinforced, obliged their enemies to retire, but not until after some huts and hayricks had been destroyed. The Bashi-Bazouks carried back with them to Podgoritza the heads of six Montenegrins who had been killed during the first part of the fight.

The loss of the Turks was twenty-three killed (of whom eleven were Roman Catholic mountaineers) and forty-one wounded.

Ali Saib Pasha is under the impression that by frequently attacking the Montenegrin villagers around Spuz and Podgoritza, he keeps a considerable number of the enemy away from the siege of Nichsich, and that he is facilitating the operations of Hafiz Pasha, who is endeavouring to relieve that town by marching towards it from Kolascin, by way of Drobniak, with about 9,000 men, and of Sali Zeki Pasha, who is concentrating a force at Gatsko and Belek, also with the purpose of relieving Nichsich.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 48.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 98. Political.)
Scutari, August 27, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that Brigadier-General Ali Rizah Pasha, who has been employed in North Albania for the last year, has now been ordered by the Porte to proceed to Arta, on the Greek frontier, to place himself under the orders of Abdi Pasha, who is in that part of the country with twelve battalions.

Ali Rizah Pasha has been directed to pass by Berat, and hasten the levy of 10,000 Tosch irregulars, which has been confided to a certain Mehemed Ali Bey of that place, and, if possible, convey this force himself to the Greek frontier.

The Pasha is of Greek origin, speaks Greek, and has been employed on all recent critical moments on the Hellenic borders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 49.

Consul Carruthers to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 39.)
My Lord,
Taganrog, August 29, 1877.

WITH reference to the subject of my despatch of the 12th ultimo, No. 34, I have now the honour to report that a couple of days ago information was given me of the arrival in this roadstead of another vessel under the Greek flag, and I forthwith applied to the Acting Greek Consul at this place to ascertain further particulars, but was informed that no ship's papers had been presented at his office; a similar reply was given me on two separate subsequent occasions.

A note has just now been sent me by the said Acting Consul, stating the name of the ship in question to be "Panaja Malteza," Captain Démétrius Moschakis, of the burthen of 187 tons, Greek. Her clearances were taken out at Constantinople for Samsounde, on the 22nd July / 3rd August last.

It is reported this vessel will be loaded by the Greek merchant, M. Mari Vaglianos, with butter for Constantinople, and that she holds a safe conduct of the Turkish Government for her passage to that place, but I have no means of ascertaining the truth of that assertion.

British merchants and shipping agents are again moving in the matter referred to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. CARRUTHERS.

No. 50.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 80. Political.)
My Lord,
Galatz, August 31, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Russian Consul at Galatz has given an order for the cutting of a large number of seals, which are to bear in Bulgarian the legend of municipality of Toultcha, &c. These seals are to be ready in a fortnight, and are destined, among other towns, for those of Toultcha, Isaakcha, Matchin, Kustenjdie, Medjidié, and Chernavoda.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 51.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5.)

(Telegraphic.)
Athens, September 4, 1877, 6 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me—

Firstly, that Her Majesty's Government may assure Turkish Government that Greek Government will not attack Turkey at present, but that by such declaration Greek Government does not mean to give a pledge for the future; for, like every independent State, Greece must always reserve her freedom of action according to circumstances.

Secondly, that Greek Government will pledge not to connive at, but will not pledge to discourage insurrections, although they are doing so, and intend to do so long as it is in their interest to follow that policy.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 52.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5.)

Athens, September 4, 1877, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH Minister tells me to-day he thinks Greece will remain quiet so long as Turkish arms are victorious, and Russians are north of the Balkans.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 53.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5.)

Belgrade, September 4, 1877, 4·10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE decision as to what Prince Milan intends doing not known yet. Prince Tzeretelew has had an interview with some Bosnian Chiefs in the interior. His mission at Belgrade not concluded yet. I am assured that Bosnian Christians are thoroughly sick of this long-pending anarchy, and also the refugees are most desirous to return if they could be assured of safety and homes. There appears a general disposition in Bosnia to give up reliance on Russia and welcome some permanent settlement of the country if the Porte were to take at once the initiative by taking it in hand, especially if such a work were undertaken by the employment of proper means for its accomplishment.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 54.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 66. Political.)

Erzeroom, August 12, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of a letter addressed to the Armenian Bishop of Bitlis by an Armenian of Van, which has been sent to me by the Rev. G. Knapp, American missionary residing at Bitlis.

This letter gives further details of the ravages committed by the Koords on the Christians, and also bears out my reports.

Mr. Knapp's information to me, from details collected by himself, show that the southern and eastern portions of Armenia have been laid waste, and that the reports I have had the honour to forward have not been in any way exaggerated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

Inclosure in No. 54.

Letter written in July 1877 by an Armenian in Van to a Bishop in Bitlis.

(Translation.)

Honourable and Holy Father,

THE condition of this city is most distressing. For the distance of three days' journey on all sides of it the Christian villages have been despoiled. Not a sheep, not an animal, not a vestige of moveable property remains; neither is there safety of life. Every Christian village on the road from Van to Bayazid has been destroyed by the cruel Koords. They have robbed the people of everything; desecrated the churches, and carried away the church treasure. The pitiable villagers, utterly destitute and helpless, have fled to the mountains and caves, are hungry, thirsty, and naked, having no shelter from the scorching heat of day or the cold at night. The daughters and wives of some they (the Koords) ravished, and of others they took captive. They plundered shops without number; those that resisted they beat and wounded, and many they killed.

At Shabagh, Legirch, Vospch, Pay Salary, Mughus, and other villages, after pillaging them they killed some of the inhabitants. They also murdered a man of the Higlu monastery, in the plain of Avaun.

The Jizirik Chief's men completely robbed Alabash Kaloo, the very rich and holy monastery of St. Bartimeus; they opened the grave of the saint and defiled it; they converted the monastery into a stable. In like manner the holy monastery of Derrama has been converted into a ruin, and the tower and walls of the church pulled down. Also Hoosagan Vorts monastery they plundered, of which not a vestige remains.

Of which shall I speak? Of which shall I write? Armenia has become a desolation. It will be almost impossible for you to believe the things which have come to pass. But if the Lord prospers you so that you come here, your eyes will be filled with tears at the sight of the desolation. In this city a Christian cannot walk about with freedom, to meet together and talk is impossible; to open the shops is wholly out of the question. Taxes grow heavy from day to day. Troubles increase daily. The wheat is ripe; to reap it is impracticable and unsafe. There are no means to hire labourers. Oxen and carts have been stolen, so that we are given up to unbearable suffering. If we go out from our houses we take off much of our clothing, lest it be seized in the streets.

The Turkish army went to Bayazid and took it from the Russians. While the fight was going on, the Koords plundered the city and surrounding villages, and killed many of the inhabitants. The beautiful women and girls they carried away to their mountain fastnesses, and now the region is desolate and uninhabited. Many of the slain lie unburied.

The Almighty Saviour our God deliver his people from these straits.

No. 55.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 988. Secret.)

Therapia, August 24, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Grand Vizier, whom I saw this morning by appointment, spoke very indignantly of the conduct of Greece. His Highness said that the Hellenic Government, whilst constantly giving assurances that it had no hostile intentions against Turkey, was making preparations with the avowed object of attacking her. The Porte had received information from Athens, upon which it placed entire reliance, that arms had been received from Russia and elsewhere to be supplied to bands now being formed for the invasion of the Turkish territory, two of which had already crossed into Thessaly. As they had been defeated, the Hellenic Government pretended that they were brigands, but it was known that they had been sent to raise the populations of the border provinces.

The Hellenic Government had made no secret of its intentions, as it was increasing its army, and had obtained votes from the Chambers for the purpose. It was placing troops on the Turkish frontier, pretending that they were required for defence, as if Turkey could possibly be suspected of any intention to attack Greece! The tone recently assumed by the Hellenic Government had, moreover, satisfied him that it was seeking a cause of quarrel, of which it would avail itself whenever the favourable moment came for throwing off the mask. In fact, the present Hellenic Government was pledged to attack Turkey, and it was upon this understanding alone that it received the support of the nation.

Under these circumstances, the Grand Vizier declared, it was absolutely necessary that the Porte should take some measures to meet the danger that threatened it, and obtain some valid guarantee that Greece would abstain from attacking Turkey. He was going, for this purpose, to propose to the Council to send at once 30,000 men to the Greek frontiers in Thessaly, and a fleet under Hobart Pasha to make a demonstration in Greek waters. It was true that, in her present straits, Turkey could ill spare so large a force, but "God had hitherto favoured her, and as her cause was a just one, He would find her men to uphold it."

His Highness then spoke of Servia, whom he also accused of making preparations to invade Turkey. The Porte would, his Highness said, take at once such measures as were necessary to meet any attack on that side.

Although I had no authority from your Lordship to communicate to his Highness the substance of your telegram of the 23rd to Mr. White, instructing him to warn the Servian Government of the consequences of making an unprovoked aggression upon Turkey, I considered it desirable, in the interests of peace, to tell his Highness that Her Majesty's Government were endeavouring to restrain the Principality from attacking Turkey, and that, in my opinion, it would be prudent on the part of

the Porte not to take any steps, such as sending troops to the Servian frontier, which might afford a pretext to Servia for accusing Turkey of hostile intentions against her. It would be better, I thought, to wait until the result of the remonstrances addressed by your Lordship to the Servian Government was known.

His Highness thanked me for the advice I had given him, and expressed great satisfaction at learning that Her Majesty's Government had used their influence at Belgrade to prevent the Servians from making an unprovoked aggression upon Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 56.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 989.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 24, 1877.*

I HAVE again spoken very seriously to the Grand Vizier on the subject of the shocking excesses committed by the Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks upon the Christian populations.

I represented to his Highness, in the strongest terms, the painful impression that they had made in Europe, and the grave injury they were doing to the cause of Turkey. I urged that immediate measures should be taken to put a stop to them at any cost.

His Highness did not attempt to deny that the Circassians had been guilty of great outrages; but he endeavoured to show that the responsibility for them could not fall upon the Porte. Russia had forced this war upon Turkey by an unprovoked aggression. The Turkish Government was in want of cavalry to meet the Cossacks, who were devastating the country and committing great cruelties upon the Mussulman inhabitants. It was, therefore, obliged to have recourse to the Circassians as auxiliary irregular horsemen. Every one knew that they were a wild and lawless tribe; but could the Porte be expected to abandon one of its principal means of defence against an unscrupulous enemy? However, his Highness said, he was prepared to take any measures in his power to restrain and discipline them, and for this purpose he had at one time thought of placing them under the command of Colonel Baker. As the vilayet of Adrianople appeared to be the principal seat of their misdeeds, he would send for Ahmet Vefyk Pasha at once, and propose to him to go as Governor-General to that province. The Pasha was, he said, a man of a firm and determined will, and would be the person most capable to deal with the Circassians, over whom he would have full powers.

Moreover, his Highness added, he believed that I had confidence in Ahmet Vefyk Pasha, and that his appointment to this very important post would be approved by me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 57.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 990.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 24, 1877.*

THE Grand Vizier has spoken to me with reference to the protest made by the German Ambassador to the Porte against the alleged violation of the Turkish troops of the Convention of Geneva.

His Highness observed that Prince Reuss appeared to have very hostile feelings against Turkey, and was ready to believe in any misdeed that was laid to her charge, whilst he denied or justified the cruelties that had been committed by the Russians.

His Highness admitted that it was not impossible that on some occasions Turkish troops might have infringed the Geneva Convention, being for the most part ignorant men brought from remote parts of the Empire, they had probably never even heard of it, and exasperated against those who had invaded their country, and had slaughtered Mussulman women and children, it was not altogether unnatural that they should be drawn into committing acts which were opposed to the modern usages of war between civilized

nations. But Russia herself had given this bloody character to an unprovoked and wicked aggression on Turkey.

However, his Highness added, he condemned as much as anyone the acts attributed to Turkish soldiers, and he would do his utmost to prevent them.

With this object he had ordered printed copies of the Geneva Convention translated into Turkish to be distributed in large numbers amongst the troops, and had directed that instructions should be given to the officers to explain its terms to the men, and to see that they were properly observed.

The Grand Vizier mentioned that, if the Turkish troops had, in certain instances, violated the rules of the Geneva Convention, it was because the Russians themselves had at Rustchuk and elsewhere refused to recognize the "Red Crescent," and had fired upon and destroyed the Turkish hospitals and ambulances, and killed Turkish sick and wounded soldiers.

I expressed my satisfaction to his Highness that he was taking means to acquaint the Turkish troops with the obligations which Turkey had incurred by accepting the Geneva Convention, and I urged upon his Highness the importance of making an immediate investigation into the statements coming from Russia, and published throughout Europe, that the bodies of Russian soldiers decapitated and horribly mutilated were found in the trenches abandoned by the Turks in the Shipka Pass.

His Highness replied that, having heard that I had brought this matter to the notice of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, he had ordered inquiries to be made on the subject without delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 58.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 991. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 24, 1877.*

I AVAILED myself of an opportunity to speak to the Grand Vizier to-day about the state of affairs in Crete. I told his Highness that I had reason to believe that if the Porte would make some concession to the Christians of the island they were disposed to come to an understanding with the Turkish Government, and that the fears that had been entertained of an insurrection in the island would thus be removed. The Cretans had at one time, I said, looked to an union with Greece; but for various reasons they had recently given up this idea, and had refused to listen to the advice of the leaders of the revolutionary party at Athens, who were inciting them to rise against the Sultan. It was well known, I observed, that some of them had turned to England, believing that she would be willing to assist them in obtaining their independence, or to take them under her protection. They had received no encouragement from Her Majesty's Government; but, on the contrary, had been given plainly to understand that England would under no circumstances interfere with the political connection of Crete with Turkey, and that the designs attributed to her with regard to the possession of the island were completely unfounded. They had, therefore, renounced all hope of any help from that quarter, and, rather than seek an union with Greece, they were now willing to remain a part of the Turkish Empire. I had been informed, I said, that at a meeting of the principal Christian Chieftains it had been decided to sign a petition to the Porte asking for certain reforms, which, if granted, would satisfy the requirements of the Cretans, and prevent further agitation in the island.

Such being the case, I remarked, it appeared to me of the greatest importance that the Porte should avail itself of this occasion to come to a complete and satisfactory understanding with the Christians of Crete. By doing so it would avoid the serious danger of an insurrection in the island at the present critical moment. A proof, moreover, would be afforded to Europe that an important part of the Greek population of the Empire preferred Turkish to Hellenic rule, if they could enjoy just government.

His Highness replied that he had heard that an address such as I had described had been signed, and he expected to receive it in a few days. He expressed his entire concurrence in what I had said. He was ready to take into serious consideration any reasonable demands that the Cretan Christians might submit to him, and to satisfy them if they were consistent with the sovereign rights of the Sultan. He repeated what I

had already been told by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, that the Christian Cretans had been requested to send a Commission, chosen from their representatives, to Constantinople, to explain the changes they asked for in the organic laws, in order that they might be considered and discussed. But they had refused to take this step, and the Porte could not be expected to make advances to them by sending Commissioners to the island to listen to what they had to say. He believed that the Organic Law insured to the Cretan Christians all the rights and privileges they could justly require. If they wished for any alteration in it they should come to Constantinople to submit their demands to the Turkish Government.

I strongly represented to the Grand Vizier the good policy and wisdom of not permitting any feelings of dignity to interfere with a settlement of the Cretan difficulty, which might be in every way so advantageous to Turkey. His Highness promised that he would take the matter into serious consideration, and thanked me for having brought it so frankly to his notice. His Highness added that as I should probably see the Sultan in a day or two, he would be glad if I were to speak to His Majesty on the subject.

I was encouraged to place this matter before his Highness in consequence of the statements contained in Mr. Consul Sandwith's despatches Nos. 51 and 54 of the 5th and 11th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 59.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 992.) *Therapia, August 24, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a despatch addressed to your Lordship, under flying seal, by Consul Zohrab.* The copy of "a letter from an Armenian in Van to a Bishop in Bitlis," which is inclosed in it, is evidently marked by a good deal of Oriental exaggeration. It is to be regretted that Mr. Zohrab is so eager to accept, and forward officially, all such reports without taking the trouble to verify them. The Grand Vizier and the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs have complained to me more than once of the manner in which Mr. Zohrab accepts as true, and sends to Constantinople, serious charges against the Turkish authorities founded upon mere bazaar reports, without taking proper measures to ascertain their truth. I have endeavoured to justify Mr. Zohrab, but I have felt that these complaints against him were not altogether unreasonable, and that he might be much more useful in the discharge of his duties if he were less ready to believe anything that was said against the Turkish authorities.

Mr. Rassam will, I hope, soon send me full and trustworthy reports of what has occurred in the Pashalic of Van. I have no doubt that the Kurds have committed very shocking excesses upon the population; it is scarcely necessary to exaggerate them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 60.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 993.) *Therapia, August 25, 1877.*

My Lord,

IN consequence of a representation that I have made confidentially to the Grand Vizier and Minister for Foreign Affairs, with respect to the threatened attack by the Kurds on the Nestorian tribes, his Highness has instructions to the Turkish authorities, under whom the Nestorians are placed, to take such measures as may be necessary for their protection, and to report upon their present condition.

I have the honour to inclose a translation of a telegram from the Vali of Diarbekir to the Grand Vizier on the subject, which his Highness has been good enough to communicate to me.

Mr. Rassam is now at Diarbekr, and I trust that I shall shortly receive from him

* No. 54.

some trustworthy information with respect to the Nestorian tribes, and their present relations with their Kurdish neighbours.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 60.

The Vali of Diarbékir to the Grand Vizier.

(Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.) *Le 12 Août, 1877.*

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir les télégrammes de votre Altesse en date du 21 et 30 Juillet dernier, concernant les districts des Nestoriens.

M'étant adressé au Moutésarif de Mardine et de Serde, il résulte des renseignements qu'ils m'ont fournis que ces districts sont, celui de Bouzhiyé, situé dans la circonscription de Hikiari, dépendante du Vilayet de Van, et ceux situés dans le voisinage de Guyen et de Bibir-goul, dans le Caza de Chermak (sandjak de Mardin).

Il y a quelques mois, les habitants de Guyen avaient enlevé quelques moutons et mulets du district des Nestoriens. Ceux-ci, profitant de l'occasion, ont à leur tour ravi quelques individus. Ce fait a ranimé l'ancienne froideur qui régnait parmi eux. Les instructions les plus catégoriques ont été données à la police de Guyen pour qu'elle eût à mettre un terme à leurs agressions réciproques.

Comme cinq compagnies de troupes du bataillon du second ban des rédifs d'Orfa, dont l'autorité disposait, avaient été expédiées précédemment au district de Médyen, dépendant de la dite province, pour effectuer certaines améliorations, et que le Mutessarif était sur le point d'entreprendre une tournée dans les districts à partir de celui de Medyen, je lui ai donné de nouveau les instructions nécessaires pour qu'il eût à exécuter immédiatement les ordres de votre Altesse et agir en conformité des vues du Gouvernement Impérial, dans le but de ne pas provoquer un état de choses qui pourrait créer des complications dans les circonstances actuelles.

No. 61.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 994.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 25, 1877.*

I HAVE brought to the notice of the Grand Vizier the statement made by Consul Biliotti in his despatch No. 64 of the 13th instant (copy sent to your Lordship), as to Mingrelian families who have been brought, against their will, by the Turkish authorities to Trebizond with the Abazian immigrants. His Highness said at once that he would give orders to the Governor of Trebizond to send them back to the Circassian coast.

I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch that I have written on the subject to Mr. Biliotti.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 61.

Mr. Layard to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

Sir, *Therapia, August 24, 1877.*

I HAVE brought to the notice of the Grand Vizier the statement contained in your despatch No. 64 of the 17th instant, that some Mingrelian families had been transported against their will by the Turkish authorities from the coast of Circassia to Trebizond, and that they were desirous of returning to their native country. His Highness said at once that orders should be given that they should be sent back, as the Porte had no desire whatever to bring unwilling immigrants to Turkey, and that the removal of the Abazian fugitives to Trebizond and elsewhere was effected at great expense and inconvenience in order to save them from the vengeance with which they were threatened by Russia for joining the Ottoman forces when they landed on the Circassian coast.

You will let me know whether the order to allow the Mingrelians to return to their

country has been given and obeyed. You may mention to the Pasha of Trebizond what you have heard from me on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 62.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 995.) *Therapia, August 25, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a telegram addressed to me by Vice-Consul Calvert, respecting Bulgarians arrested by the Turkish authorities at Philippopolis, and of my reply to it.

As your Lordship is aware, I am doing my best here privately to induce the Porte to treat the Bulgarians arrested on the charge of complicity in the insurrection and in the Russian invasion with justice, leniency, and humanity, and, I trust, not altogether without effect. It would not, I think, be wise to do more at present, and especially to ask that a British Consular Agent should be present at the examination of the prisoners. We have no grounds for making such a request, which would, I feel certain, be refused, and the very fact of my asking it would diminish any influence for good that I might hereafter be able to exercise. Unhappily a large number of Bulgarians have been induced by Russian agents, and by the presence of Russian troops, to rise against the Sultan, and have been taken with arms in their hands, or on suspicion of having been in communication with or assisted the enemy. They have exposed themselves to the fate of rebels, and we cannot in justice call upon the Porte to withhold the punishment they have incurred. It is to be feared that amongst the sufferers there will be some whose share in the insurrection has not been such as to deserve the severest punishment, and even many innocent persons. But such things happen in all rebellions, especially when aggravated, as in the present case, by horrible outrages upon and slaughter of the defenceless population. Your Lordship may, however, be assured that I will exert myself as far as I can prudently to prevail upon the Turkish Government to avoid a useless effusion of blood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 62.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Philippopoli, August 25, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

JOHN GUESHOGLOU, most highly respectable Bulgarian, of Philippopoli, who became naturalized in England, but returned to Turkey four years ago, was imprisoned last evening by order of military Commandant.

Other arrests of Bulgarian notables are spoken of as contemplated, although nothing was found against them last year. Would it be possible that I should attend their examination?

Inclosure 2 in No. 62.

Mr. Layard to Vice-Consul Calvert.

Therapia, August 26, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

DO what you can for person mentioned in your telegram, and let me know at once if his life is in danger. Watch proceedings in other cases as well as you can, and report to me.

I cannot at present ask for you to be present at examination.

No. 63.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 997.) *Therapia, August 27, 1877.*

My Lord,

SOME persons in England, unacquainted with this country, appear to believe that after what is now passing in Bulgaria and other parts of European Turkey, the Mohammedans and Christians will not hereafter be able to live together. I observe a suggestion to that effect in a leading article of the "Times" of the 17th instant. The supposition is not, in my opinion, well founded. It cannot be repeated too often that the Turkish population of the invaded provinces has not shown hostility, except in rare instances, to the Bulgarians, but has, on the contrary, protected them as far as it was able against the excesses of the Cossacks and other marauders. The two populations have hitherto lived peaceably together, and would do so, I doubt not, in future, if foreign intrigues were not employed to excite the religious fanaticism of the Christians against the Mussulmans, and to excite political discontent. But I refer to this matter principally in order to point out the danger of such utterances. They can only mean that one of the two races must be driven out of the country which they inhabit together. The Turkish Government has suspected from the first that Russia has the deliberate design of exterminating, or driving out, from Bulgaria and a great part of Roumelia the whole of the Turkish population. It has been confirmed in that suspicion by the slaughter of Mussulmans in the invaded districts, and by the proceedings of the Russian civil administration at Tirnova, which has confiscated their lands. If it is now led to believe that the European Powers have come to the conclusion that the two races can no longer live together, it may take measures to anticipate an attempt to carry it out by removing the Bulgarians elsewhere whilst there are yet the means of doing so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 64.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 998. Confidential.) *Therapia, August 27, 1877.*

My Lord,

M. NEGROPONTE, a Greek gentleman of Constantinople, well known for his connection with the revolutionary parties in Greece, is in correspondence with Mr. Gladstone. As the letters he receives from Mr. Gladstone have been shown to myself and some of my colleagues, and have been passed round amongst the principal Greeks here, there is no secret in the matter. It appears to be Mr. Gladstone's object to induce the Greeks to "throw their lot in with the Slaves," and to take advantage of the present war to bring to an end the Turkish rule in Europe. It need scarcely be said that advice coming from such a source is calculated to have considerable effect, and might lead to very deplorable results. A Bulgarian insurrection has already caused shocking misery and bloodshed. If the Greek subjects of the Sultan were to rise or Greece to attack Turkey, the consequences would probably be still more disastrous. Hitherto the Greek population has not been molested. The vengeance of the Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks, and the measures of repression to which the Turkish Government has had recourse, have been directed against the Bulgarians. Surely there has been carnage and desolation enough without adding to them a massacre of the Greeks.

Fortunately the advice of Mr. Gladstone to the Greeks to "throw their lot in with the Slaves" is not palatable to them. They now hate and fear the Slaves more than they do the Turks, and if they take advantage of the present troubles of the Porte, it would be to defend themselves against Slave and Russian encroachments rather than in consequence of any wish to free themselves from Turkish rule. M. Negroponte wrote to Mr. Gladstone in this sense, and, judging from his last letter, Mr. Gladstone is not overpleased to find that his advice has not been taken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 65.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 999.) *Therapia, August 27, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a very interesting narrative by Vice-Consul Brophy of the events that have occurred in his district since the Russian invasion of Roumelia, of most of which he has been an eye witness.

I desire to call your Lordship's attention to Mr. Brophy's statement as affording a proof, if any were required, of the terrible consequences of the unprovoked aggression of Russia upon Turkey. Before this cruel war was begun every person acquainted with Turkey warned those philanthropists who were urging her to undertake it of its inevitable results.

They foresaw that when once the antagonistic passions of race and creed were roused and Mussulman and Christian fanaticism excited, when the authority of the Porte, which alone could maintain peace between rival populations, was relaxed, and when a hostile invasion produced confusion and anarchy, such shocking occurrences as those described by Mr. Brophy were inevitable.

These warnings were treated with indifference and contempt. It was confidently believed that the Turkish population were too weak and cowardly to resent a wanton aggression on their country, that the Turkish rule would at once collapse, and that a Russian army, maintaining order in the country, would make an unresisted and bloodless march to Constantinople. How all these rash forecasts, made in entire ignorance of the country and its varied populations, have been fulfilled it is now scarcely necessary to point out. Mr. Brophy's simple and ample relation shows what has taken place in one district. The same, and perhaps worse, has occurred in other parts of Turkey in Europe. For all this bloodshed, misery, and destruction, and for their results upon a once flourishing and daily improving Christian, as well as upon a peaceable Mohammedan, population, Russia and those who goaded her on to this war must be held responsible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 65.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

Bourgas, August 13, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, having heard accounts of various excesses alleged to have been committed by Bashi-Bazouks and others in the neighbourhood of Slimnia, I rode, on the 3rd July, to that town, which is the *chef-lieu* of this sub-Province, and the seat of a Lieutenant-Governor (Mutessarif).

On my arrival there, I found the Mussulman population in a state of great excitement, consequent on the news of Tirnova having been occupied by the Russians, and that a great number of them were expressing their intention to leave the town and go to Adrianople, Karnabad, or Bourgas, the cause of this resolution being a latent distrust of their Christian fellow-townsmen, who, they thought, would be likely to ill-treat them in the event of the Russians taking possession of Slimnia. Amongst them, however, many of the wealthier class were free from apprehensions of the kind, and disinclined to leave a town in which most of their property and interests are situated, and which, once abandoned by its Mussulman inhabitants, would, they well knew, be at the mercy of Circassian and other Bashi-Bazouks, be certainly plundered, and probably burnt.

As both Mussulmans and Bulgarians professed to have confidence in me, I was chosen as a sort of mediator by them, and succeeded in persuading them to exchange an identical document, signed by the leading men of either community, to the effect that no one would abandon Slimnia, and that all injuries inflicted by Turks upon Christians, or *vice versâ*, were to be paid for by the community to which the offenders belonged. This decision, however, was constantly liable to be strengthened or weakened according to the reports circulated of Russian administration in the conquered districts, which was sometimes described as leaving nothing to be desired, and at others as infamous in the extreme.

Amongst the Christians of the town of Slimnia, I found a very strong feeling that "somebody" ought to do "something" to alter the existing system of injustice and

maladministration so unfortunately prevalent in the provinces, but apparently no particular sympathy with the Russians *as Russians*. I was frequently told, and, I believe, as the genuine expression of a widely-spread opinion: "We should prefer that the Turks should themselves see to the proper execution of their own laws, as they already exist; but as it seems most unlikely that they will do so, we should welcome the coming of Russia, or of any other Power which promises to introduce justice into the country; but we protest against Russia annexing any part of Bulgaria, and, if she intends to do so, we shall deluge Europe with petitions against her."

On my asking the reason for this dislike to a permanent Russian occupation, I was answered that "Russia, once mistress of Roumelia, the Bulgarians, in two generations, would become thorough Russians, and their language and nationality a mere historical tradition." As an example, they quoted the sons of those Bulgarian emigrants who left this country for Bessarabia in 1829, who, they said, considered themselves as Russians, and not Bulgarians, and had lost all interest in the country of their forefathers.

Amongst the Turks—more especially, but still not exclusively, amongst the better educated classes—I found that the same feeling as to the necessity of a radical improvement in provincial administration not only existed, but was openly expressed; and when I first came, before more or less authentic stories of Russian barbarities began to be circulated, there was certainly a desire that, if Russia were destined to beat Turkey, she should do so at once, and thus restore peace and quietness. Instead of using the term "Moscov," or "Moscov Giaour," even the lower classes at this time usually alluded to the enemy as "Russia," an apparently trifling concession, but which, amongst the Turks, implies a good deal.

After the first week in July, a number of Mussulman fugitives from the town of Tirnova, and from the district known as the "Tozlouk," between that town and the Slimnia Balkan, began to arrive. I spoke with about twenty villagers, who were unanimous in declaring that the Cossacks, after collecting their arms, and promising them good treatment, burned their villages, and carried off women and girls; most of the men, they said, were in the mountains, with such of their property as they had been able to save. Other Turkish peasants, more especially those from Postil and Ahmedli, in the "Tozlouk," described the Bulgarians of Behrova and Ilena as being armed and uniformed (sometimes wearing white coats, and always flat white caps), as going to the Mussulman villages, as yet not deserted, extorting money, tearing off the women's veils, forcing men and women to make the sign of the cross, firing on the men, and carrying off many of the girls.

Hadji Ali Bey, of Tirnova, informed me that when coming with his family to Slimnia he was stopped in the "Tozlouk" by about 300 Bulgarians, armed and wearing white caps, who began to treat the women roughly, and to demand ransom; amongst them he recognized the servant of the Bulgarian Mudir (Governor) of Ilena, called out to him as being an old acquaintance, and by his influence was allowed to pass unmolested. With reference to these and similar occurrences I had the honour to forward to your Excellency a telegram (Inclosure No. 1) of July 14, in my despatch No. 7, of August 11.

On the 11th July his Excellency Reouf Pasha arrived at Slimnia with a battery of artillery, a small force of infantry, and some Circassian and Zebek cavalry; these Circassians carried off from the town and neighbourhood a number of horses, amongst others my own, breaking open the door of the stable where it was standing.

I spoke to Reouf Pasha about his men's plundering, as also to several of the Circassian Chiefs; but although in the case of my horse and another taken from the same stable the robbery was known to have been committed by those Circassians who were billeted in the inn, neither those animals nor any others were recovered; not much to my surprise, as it is a general rule that nothing taken by Circassians ever returns to its owner.

On the 14th instant the Russians crossed the Balkans by the Ferdilch-Hain pass, about thirty miles from Slimnia, and Reouf Pasha went out to meet them, was driven back, and returned the next day to Slimnia.

Having been told that when the Turkish population of Yeni-Zagra fled at the news of the Russian advance, that town was fired, and a number of the Bulgarians killed by the Zebeks and other Bashi-Bazouks retreating in disorder, I applied to Reouf Pasha, on the 18th, for a small escort to enable me to proceed there in company with Lord Melgund, who was also anxious to go in the same direction.

We were, however, courteously told by his Excellency that he did not consider the road safe enough to be travelled with only a small escort, but that if we would wait till evening we could join himself and Safvet Pasha, as they were about to march there with ten or eleven battalions.

During this interview, which took place in Reouf Pasha's tent, outside the town of Slimnia, a Circassian Chief, Hadji Bey, reported to his Excellency that Circassian vedettes had captured in the hills that morning three armed Bulgarians, and that there was fresh blood upon the knife of one of them. Hadji Bey then earnestly begged Reouf Pasha to allow him to collect 1,000 or 500 Circassians, and with them to exterminate the whole of the Bulgarians in Roumelia. Reouf Pasha refused, saying that such things (i.e., murders by Bulgarians) must necessarily occur in time of war. It struck me as rather curious that Hadji Bey, whom I had often met and conversed with before, and who had previously been speaking to his General in Circassian, made his statement and request in Turkish, as if he wished me to understand it.

Towards evening Lord Melgund and myself started to overtake Reouf Pasha, but were met by a note from his Excellency, saying that he was going to bivouac on the banks of the Toundja, and asking us to join him next morning, so we returned to the town.

The same night false intelligence was brought to Slimnia that a Russian division had forced the Demir Capou, a mountain pass to the north of the town, defended by regular troops and Zebeks, and was only two miles distant. At daybreak next morning five or six Turks and two Bulgarians came to the house at which I was staying, begging me to come at once to the konak (official residence of the Governor), as all the authorities had left at night, the Turkish population were preparing to follow their example, the whole town was in a state of terror and confusion, and serious disorders were to be apprehended. On my way to the konak I learned that the officials who had deserted their posts were the Mutessarif (Lieutenant-Governor), the Cadi, the Fabrica Mudiri (a major in the army, Superintendent of the Government Cloth Factory, who had also taken with him the 120 soldiers under his command), the major commanding the police force of the Sandjak of Slimnia, the Treasurer, the First Secretary (Tahrirat Mudiri), and the Custom-house officer; all the zaptiehs, except six or seven from Bourgas and Aehialo, had shut themselves up in their houses, the prisoners had been released, and the Mussulmans amongst them armed, and, in fact, the town appeared to be on the verge of complete anarchy.

The approaches to the konak were filled with an excited crowd of several hundred men and women, chiefly Mussulmans, who asked me whether they had better leave the town; whether the Bulgarians were going to massacre them; how far off the Russians were, &c. At this moment I noticed a Circassian Bey from my own neighbourhood, who had just arrived with six or seven horsemen, and whom, though I knew him to be a freebooter, I could trust to a certain extent. This man I requested to ride about the town, to turn back all would-be fugitives, and to keep order in the streets as well as he could; he and his men proved of the greatest use.

The reception-room at the konak was full of people, Christians and Mussulmans, all, of course, talking at once; but soon after my arrival it was decided to name a sort of Provisional Government until the arrival of instructions from Adrianople, and a Turkish gentleman of Slimnia, Aarif Effendi, and myself, were unanimously chosen as joint Acting Governors by the Turkish and Bulgarian population.

The occurrences of the night and day were telegraphed to Constantinople; a messenger was sent to the camp outside the town for a battalion of soldiers; and, in the meantime, volunteer sentries were placed over the cloth factory, where a large amount of Government property had been left exposed and unguarded, and a mosque in which was stored ammunition, some of which had already been plundered.

With the aid of strong patrols, and the good sense of the majority of the inhabitants, Christian and Mussulman, order and comparative tranquillity were restored within a few hours; most fortunately, for towards evening the advanced guard, if such a term can be applied to straggling detachments of from five to eighty, of some 2,000 Circassians, under the nominal command of Reouf Pasha's brother, Khosref Bey, began to arrive, bringing with them led horses and a quantity of other plunder from the Bulgarian villages they had passed on the road from Shumla; had the Turks yielded to their first impulse and abandoned the town, not even the presence of the few regulars in garrison could have prevented Slimnia from being plundered and burnt by these "auxiliary troops." During the day a messenger sent to Demir Capou returned, and reported that the Zebeks there had been firing upon one another, and that three of them had been killed, but that the Russians had not moved and were still in their old positions, in the plain to the north of the Slimnia Balkan. A telegram was received from Adrianople approving of the provisional measures taken, and congratulating the inhabitants on their behaviour, and, in the evening, another, recommending the election of one acting Mutessarif until the arrival of a new Governor. Upon the receipt of this latter message

my temporary functions naturally ceased, and Aarif Effendi remained as Acting Lieutenant-Governor.

For the next four days Circassians continued to come in by small or large bands, all of them bringing horses, cattle, cloth, copper vessels, church plate, clothes, wool, &c., which they sold openly in the streets to Armenians, Jews, and gipsies, the Christians and Turks generally refusing to buy them. During their stay in Slimnia they broke into several shops, and carried off cattle from the town and neighbourhood openly, taking even the oxen conveying stores for the army.

I had the honour of telegraphing to your Excellency concerning these depredations on the 21st, 22nd, and 25th July (Inclosures 2, 3, 4, in despatch No. 7, August 11), the last telegram giving a list of fifteen plundered villages, to which I might have added the names of Gurtchbey, Demirdjili, Teherkessli, Toussounlou, Yayakeui, Atli-Oglou, Mousla-Hodja, Caradja-Mouratli, Kishlakeui, Adli, Kikurva, Ahatli, and Conakli; in fact, there was, even at that time, hardly a village within thirty miles of Slimnia which had not suffered by these marauders. I have previously spoken of them as being under the "nominal" command of Khosref Bey, and use the term because every twenty or fifty Circassians consider themselves as being under a separate Chief whom alone they will obey—if, indeed, they obey any one. During Khosref Bey's stay in Slimnia, a Circassian offered to draw his dagger upon him when ordered to give up a horse he had stolen.

On the 22nd July, a new Mutessarif, Nafouz Bey, arrived from Adrianople, and was most active in trying to repress such excesses as I have mentioned, but unfortunately the means at his disposal were very inadequate; his energy and perseverance were, however, successful in preventing any serious outrages in the town, which was at one time in a very critical state, Zebeks and Circassians openly declaring that they would not leave Slimnia until they had plundered it.

On the 23rd July the state of siege was proclaimed at Slimnia.

The occurrences of the 19th July having prevented me going to Yeni-Zagra at the time, I am unable to give any authentic details concerning that town previous to its occupation by Suleiman Pasha's troops on the 4th August, but from what I could learn I believe that a number of Bulgarians—how many I cannot say—were killed there by Bashi-Bazouks. An Armenian, Hadji Petros, owner or tenant of a farm at the village of Atli-Oglou, whose horses had been carried off by Circassians, went to Reouf Pasha's camp near Yeni-Zagra on the 21st or 22nd instant to try to recover them, and, owing to his dress and appearance, giving him the appearance of a Turk, was able to penetrate into the town. He told me that he only saw five corpses of Bulgarians in the streets he passed through, but that Turks, taking him for a Mussulman, told him that the bodies of the Rayahs were collected in houses which were then set fire to; that the town was burning in several quarters; that Turks and Circassians were busy removing effects from the unburnt houses; that 200 women and children (the original number of Bulgarian inhabitants was over 3,000) where then receiving rations at Reouf Pasha's camp, and that, as far as he knew, there were then no Bulgarians remaining in Yeni-Zagra. This, it should be recollected, was before the Russians took Yeni-Zaghra, and it is possible that some of the Bulgarians may have left the town previously to Reouf Pasha's coming there, although nothing was known of them at either Slimnia or Yamboli.

About this time I was told that a band of 250 Bulgarian reapers, all women and girls, accompanied by fifty men, had been massacred by Turks from the villages of Yurukler and Sirbjé (five hours from Slimnia), and I spoke to two men who said that they had escaped from the slaughter and only knew of one other who had been as fortunate as themselves; near the same place twenty-six Bulgarian mowers are said to have been murdered; in each of these cases particulars as to the locality in which the corpses were supposed to lie were given me, but as these places were then within the Russian lines I could not go there. For a similar reason I was unable to visit the village near Hain-Boghaz, of Eshekdji, whose Turkish inhabitants, men, women, and children, are reported to have been massacred by Bulgarians.

On the 26th July the Mutessarif informed me that he had received official intimation from the Kaimakam of the Caza of Kizil-Aghalj (between Yamboli and Adrianople) that 4,000 armed Bulgarians were assembled in the village of Boyadjik (the same village which was last year destroyed by Chefket Pasha), and as the same notice had been sent to Reouf Pasha and the Vali of Adrianople, he begged me proceed there in company of the Bulgarian Archbishop and Osman Aga, a member of the Council, for the purpose of reporting on the truth of this information.

On our way we rode through the deserted and plundered village of Aidji-Mahallé,

and afterwards through that of Yayakeui, which at first sight appeared also abandoned, but as we halted there the villagers, recognizing the Archbishop and Osman Aga, came out from the wood close by and told us that their houses had been plundered and their cattle driven off by Circassians two or three days previously. Shortly afterwards we passed through the Bulgarian village of Kermenli (eighty houses), where, on the preceding day, seven Circassians had carried off all the horses, plundered the church and a number of houses, and had attempted to drive away all the sheep, as the shepherds tried to save their flocks, the Circassians with their Winchester rifles shot down eleven of them. We saw the graves of nine, over which the women were weeping, whilst another was being dug for the tenth, who had died an hour before our arrival; the corpse of the eleventh had not yet been found.

When we came to the village of Boyadjik it also appeared to be deserted, but as the Archbishop, who with myself had ridden ahead of our escort in order not to frighten the peasants, called out "Dadio Vladyka! Dadio Vladyka!" (grandfather Archbishop), we at last saw some heads and gun-barrels peeping over the gate of a farm-yard, which presently opened, and one Jew, one Turk, and two Armenians rushed out in a half-wild manner and almost embraced the Vladyka when they realized the fact that it was really he. Inside the gates we could see a perspective of women and children crying and endeavouring to hide themselves within the precints of the walled farm-yard.

We found that two Turks, Mustapha Aga and Mehmet Aga, owners of land in this village, had been induced to stay, and had been most active in saving their Bulgarian neighbours from wholesale robbery, and that all the peasants, from fear of the Circassians, had taken refuge in the three-walled farms, two of which belonged to the Turks I have mentioned, the other being rented by an Armenian. The Turks assured us that there were no strangers in the village, and no other arms than the five or six rusty old flint-locks carried by them, the Jew, and the Armenians; at the sight of our escort of seven or eight horsemen all the villagers had taken for granted that we were Circassians and had given themselves up for lost. Mustapha Aga calculated that during the previous twenty-four hours 20,000 head of cattle and sheep had been driven past the village by Circassians.

Next morning three or four Turks and Bulgarians, hearing of our arrival, came over from the village of Moushu-Hodja, whence two days before the Circassians had driven off all the cattle worth taking, plundered the church and various houses, and killed four men and a woman. From Caradja-Mouratli all the cattle had been taken, and a number of women outraged.

After leaving a couple of zaptiehs at Boyadjik we rode on to Yamboli, which had been deserted on the night of the 14th by all the Turkish inhabitants, who, however, before they left, pillaged houses and shops in conjunction with the Bulgarians, not even the konak nor the Kaimakam's private property being respected. Except Mustahfiz soldiers, the Kaimakam was, when we visited the town, the only Turk in it, all his staff of clerks, zaptiehs, &c., having left. Some rifles being in depôt at Yamboli, he had found it necessary, before the Mustahfiz were sent, to arm the Bulgarians, with whom he repulsed an attack made by Circassians.

The fugitives from Yamboli carried off all the cattle from those Bulgarian villages they passed through; from Kikurva, 200 cattle and 1,200 sheep, from Bey-Keui 350 cattle, &c. At the last-named village two men and a woman were killed by them, but the Bulgarians here are also accused of having murdered a Turkish woman, on the grounds that her "feredjé" (cloak) and papers were found in the village whilst she herself was missing.

During our stay at the konak, villagers from Kishla-keui came to complain of Circassians having driven off 60 horses, and others to report that 30 to 40 Circassians had taken about 150 oxen from the villages of Ahatli and Conakli, which they had driven into a wood near the town. To recover these last a company of Mustahfiz was sent, with orders to fire upon the robbers if they offered to use their arms. Shortly afterwards a messenger was sent back to say that the Circassians had intimated that they would not fire upon soldiers, but neither would they give up their booty. Two other companies were ordered out, and on their approach the Circassians decamped, leaving the oxen, which were brought to the town.

From Yamboli we returned to Slimnia, through a rich corn country, in which 30 per cent. of the crops was rotting uncut on the ground, no reapers daring to stir outside the towns or villages. During this ride of more than sixty miles I had noticed that at least one-fourth of the grain was left uncut, and that not 1 per cent. was carried, the peasants having either fled from their villages, or—all their oxen and horses having been carried off—being unable to carry or thresh it, even if they ventured to go to the fields.

In the course of this and other excursions I was able to assure myself that not one-twentieth of the grain crop (an exceptionally good one this year) in the Cazas of Slimnia, Yamboli, and Yeni-Zaghra will be available for food, and as no land will be ploughed or sown this year, a famine in these districts appears to be inevitable.

The estimated annual value of the cereals in the Caza of Slimnia is 2,250,000*l.* sterling, and with that of the other two cazas mentioned may amount to 5,000,000*l.* sterling, all or at least 95 per cent. of which is lost to the country, not through the chances or necessities of war, but by the depredations of Circassians, which the Turkish Government has never made any serious attempt either to check or to redress.

I was at one time disposed to calculate the number of cattle and sheep thus driven off from the three cazas at 80,000, but I now think that to be much under the truth. The Circassian villages are still full of the plunder, though they have sold a great portion of it at such prices as 1*s.* for a sheep, 10*s.* for a horse or a cow and calf, and 3*l.* for a pair of working oxen.

On the 28th July I had the honour to telegraph to your Excellency (Inclosure 5 in despatch of August 11) a *résumé* of my journey to Boyadjik.

On the same day Colonel Lennox and Lieutenant Cherniside, who returned from Yeni-Zaghra to Slimnia, informed me that they had reason to believe that a massacre of Turkish men, women, and children by Bulgarians had occurred at the village of Kadirbé, two hours beyond Yeni-Zaghra, whilst Circassians had murdered a number of Bulgarians, of either sex and all ages, at Guennullu Mahallési, upon the line of railroad between Yeni-Zaghra and Kara-Bounar. As Colonel Lennox advised me to proceed to these villages, I made arrangements to start on Monday, the 30th, on which day Colonel Lennox telegraphed my intention to do so to your Excellency (Inclosure 7 in despatch of August 11).

Early on the morning of the 30th I had my horses brought to the konak and was about to leave, when the Mutessarif informed me that my journey that day was impossible, as a telegram had just been received from Yeni-Zaghra saying that the Russians were firing upon the town, and that an engagement was taking place between them and the troops under Reouf Pasha.

On the same day Turkish volunteers (Bashi-Bazouks) from the town of Slimnia went to the village of Karassyrli (Turkish and Bulgarian) and commenced firing upon the Rayahs and plundering the houses. The Turks had fled on seeing them approach, and advised the Christians to do the same, but of the latter, at least one, a girl of eighteen, daughter of Ivan Oglou Stoian, was shot; a great many shots were fired by the Bashi-Bazouks, but with what result my informants could not tell, as they themselves had escaped as soon as they could, taking with them fifteen or sixteen women and children, whom they brought at night, by mountain paths, into Slimnia. The wife of one of these two men was fired at and missed three times, whilst the girl above-mentioned fell by their side.

The Turks of the neighbouring village of Buyuk-Chesli, to whom the Bulgarians of Karassyrli had previously entrusted all their cattle to save them from being driven off, came down on hearing the firing, drove away the Bashi-Bazouks, and took all the remaining Bulgarians to their own village for protection, saying "that they had always been good neighbours and meant to continue so."

On the night of the 1st instant Zebeks drove off from the village of Toussoumlou all the cattle left by the Circassians, and killed a Bulgarian named Dimitri Oglou Dano, and on that day three Bulgarians of Slimnia were found murdered at Roum Tarla, four miles from the town.

On the 2nd instant, it being reported that the Russians had evacuated Yeni-Zaghra on the previous day, I started to try to reach Kadirbé, Guennullu Mahallési, and another village, Buyukkumuk, in which last I was told that Bulgarians had burned alive in a straw-shed about eighty Turkish men and women. The first village we passed through was Chairlik, four miles from Slimnia, deserted by its inhabitants (Turks and Bulgarians), after having been plundered on the 30th by Slimnia Bashi-Bazouks, Circassians, and Zebeks. Passing by the village (deserted) of Nalbantlar, which had been set on fire the previous night by Zebeks, who were arrested by troops sent from Slimnia on the flames being perceived from the town, we halted at Djinali, about fourteen miles from Slimnia, a village which had first been abandoned by the Turkish inhabitants on the news of the Russians crossing the Balkans, and then (on the 22nd) plundered by Circassians, who killed two Bulgarians, a man and a woman, and burned some of the houses. I walked through the village and entered several of the houses, which were littered with broken stools, looms, pitchers, school books, children's toys, empty boxes, woollen rugs cut to pieces on the supposition that they might contain money, &c.; the starving cats and

dogs came round me begging for food. About three miles further was the deserted Turkish village of Beiram Bey, and then, near a fountain, the corpse of a Turk, killed by a sword-cut across the mouth; 500 yards further, and near the telegraph watch-house, was a Bulgarian, apparently killed the day before, he had a bullet-wound in the abdomen, a sword-cut on the head, and the nose, lips, and right ear were cut off; about twenty yards from this corpse I picked up an empty Martini-Peabody cartridge, such as (on this side of the Balkans) is only served out to Asiatic Nizam troops, and we previously, and afterwards, noticed the track in the dust of a small detachment of soldiers marching.

Passing through the deserted village of Nipyasli (Turkish and Bulgarian), we rode on to that of Cadikeui, where we stopped at a large farm belonging to Hadji Ibrahim Aga, Persian Consul at Adrianople, and which at first appeared to be like the village itself perfectly empty; as we could get no one to come to us, and were rather hungry, we searched for bread in the cottages inside the yard belonging to the farm servants, all of which were open and full of bedding, clothes, &c., and though we found no food, we came upon a considerable quantity of cartridges for the Turkish Martini-Peabody, for a sort of Russian Martini, for the Winchester repeating and the old muzzle-loading rifles; we found also two or three bayonets, but no fire-arms of any kind. On the preceding evening fifty-six Cossacks had come to this village, dined at the farm, and had just left when eighteen Circassians rode up with two or three zaptiehs and the Slimnia Major of Police, the villagers turned out to the number of about eighty and fired upon the Circassians (thinking, perhaps, that they had come to plunder) without hurting anybody, and the latter then gave chase to the Cossacks, with whom they exchanged harmless shots at 2,000 yards; the Cossacks in their retreat burned the deserted Turkish village of Caimakli, a mile from Cadikeui.

Having at last succeeded in getting the house open by an old woman and two farm-servants, who had hidden themselves from fear of Bashi-Bazouks, we learned from them that the Turks of Cadikeui had left nearly three weeks before, and all the Bulgarians on the previous evening after the arrival of the Circassians, with the exception of twenty or thirty, who had fled on seeing us coming.

I asked about the cartridges I had found, and was told that the Cossacks distributed them and rifles to every Bulgarian who would accept them, that nearly all the villagers were thus armed, but had taken their guns with them to Kieurtné, a village just off the high road, two miles from Cadikeui. With regard to the arms which were at this time in the hands of nearly every Bulgarian peasant in the environs of Yeni-Zaghra, I am disposed to think that they were not all distributed by Cossacks, but that the greater part were picked up by the Rayahs themselves after Reouf Pasha's defeat at that town on the 30th July.

The servants here told me that a number of Bulgarians, men and women, of whom many were wounded, had that day passed through Cadikeui on their road to Kieurtné; they were from the two villages of Cadalan and Euren, from which, when the Turks living there left for Adrianople, they fled to the mountains, and on the 1st August had been attacked by the Turks of Yurukler and Sirbjé (the same I previously mentioned as accused of having massacred a band of Bulgarian reapers), and a great number of them killed.

As it was late, I thought it might be well to stop the night at Cadikeui and go on the next morning, but the servants telling me that at Kieurtné there were then 200 Cossacks, some of whom frequently came to visit the farm, I considered that I had no right to expose my small escort (consisting of my cavass and two zaptiehs) to the risk of a night attack, and as there were no inhabited villages except Kieurtné within fifteen miles, we rode back to Slimnia, which we reached at midnight. On our return we met a party of a dozen Circassians, the only persons we saw on the road that day, and who, on leaving us, rode to Cadikeui, plundered the farm, and burned eighteen houses in the village.

On the 5th instant I started again for Yeni-Zaghra, in company with Hadji Ibrahim Aga, the Persian Consul. A little way beyond the mutilated corpse of the Bulgarian were the bodies of two others, pierced with bullets and their throats cut. I noticed that their waist-belts, which were quite new, had not been taken from them; at the farm of Cadikeui, where we halted for the second time, I found in one of the rooms the still warm corpses of two Bulgarians, whom the Persian and his servant recognized as men belonging to the village; one of them had been killed by a bayonet-thrust in the neck, the other by three shots from a Winchester rifle and a sword cut. These men appear to have been murdered by a party of eleven or twelve Bashi-Bazouks (Turks) from Slimnia, whom we had met on the road an hour previously, and who afterwards boasted of their exploit in the coffee-shops of the town.

Riding on to Yeni-Zaghra, we found that town occupied by a detachment of Suleiman Pasha's troops, who were burying the soldiers killed in the fight of the 30th instant, from an open space of little more than an acre in extent, in front of the railway station, 110 bodies, all of Turks, were removed.

I found here, receiving rations with the soldiers, a man named Dali Oglou Ferhad Aga, of Kudirbé, whose account of the massacre at that village was as follows:—

"On Friday the 27th July, two Cossacks came to the village, which is inhabited by Turks and Bulgarians, and asked the former whether they would surrender their arms on promise of good treatment; most of the Turks were then assembled in the court-yard of a farm belonging to Ouzoun Oglou Hadji Ali Aga, and at once gave up their weapons, which the Cossacks distributed amongst the Bulgarians, with whom they plundered several Mussulman houses and then went away.

"Two hours afterwards the same Cossacks returned, said to the Bulgarians 'What are you waiting for? kill them,' upon which, the latter mounted upon the walls, and commenced firing upon the crowd in the court-yard.

"Ferhad's wife and his four sons, Hassan, Eyoub, Mustafa, and Sali, were killed before his eyes; he and his daughter Ferouza, with her infant, escaped from the inclosure, and made for the fields; a shot struck her at the outskirts of the village, and she fell, whilst he, though repeatedly fired at, succeeded in gaining a wood, where he passed the night, and afterwards reached a Turkish village; he heard that many were killed in their houses, and that the Bulgarians carried off some of the women and girls. There were thirty-five Turkish houses in Kudirbé, and at the time about as many Turkish families from the village of Jambazli, besides other Mussulman refugees. He supposes that more than 200 men, women, and children were killed. The Cossacks took no active part in the massacre."

With reference to this occurrence I was told, on the 1st instant, by Hussein Sa'atdji (watchmaker), of Slimnia, that he was with Circassians who went to Kudirbé on the 30th, and rescued from the Bulgarian houses about thirty women and children, many of them wounded; these were taken to the Turkish head-quarters, then at the second watch-house on the Eski Zagra road; he saw many corpses in the farm-yard, in the tobacco and bean fields, and in a small pool; he supposed 300 to have been killed, but this number is probably beyond the truth, as there are no other witnesses, amongst those examined by Colonel Lennox or myself, who estimate it so high. Captain Fife, Military Attaché, whom I saw on the 6th near Yeni-Zagra, informed me that riding through a wood near Kudirbé he counted within a few minutes the bodies of six women and three children, all Turks.

I here spoke with five Turkish women, Zeineb, Miriam, Ayesha, Ruré, and Fatmé, and two men, Ibrahim, Zeineb's son, and Danadji Youssouf-oglou Ismail, all from the village of Buyuklumuk, four miles from Kudirbé, who related the following history:—On the 20th or 21st July five Cossacks came to the village, which contained 60 Turkish and 300 Bulgarian houses, collected the arms of the Turks and distributed them amongst the Rayahs, shutting up all the former in a mosque, where they remained seven days, guarded by the Bulgarians, and receiving rations of bread. On Saturday the 28th 200 or 300 Cossacks arrived, and marched them all out to an open space called Vacouf Meidan; about eighty of them were then, by order of the Cossacks, put into a straw-shed belonging to Topal Sadyk Mehmet; the Cossacks told the Bulgarians to set fire to the shed, and went away.

Some of the men got out of the shed and attempted to fly, but all of these, except six (amongst whom was Zeineb's son Ibrahim), were shot or cut down, the others, men and women, were burned alive.

Danadji Youssouf Oglou Ismaïl was shot in trying to escape, but found three days afterwards by Circassians; he had a bullet wound in each leg, and was apparently dying, having barely strength enough to tell me that he had been in the shed.

I could not find out why only 80 out of perhaps 200 were thus shut up, nor whether there was any principle of selection, except that it seems a man and a woman, or girl, were put in alternately. Zeineb's unmarried daughter was amongst those thus burnt. A number of girls were taken by the Bulgarians to their houses and rescued on the 30th or 31st by Circassians, whom they implored to kill them, as they had no wish to live, "and better would it have been for them," said all the women I was speaking to, "had they been burnt in the shed."

As I mounted my horse after taking down notes of this evidence, Zeineb said to me "You are the only person who has asked us what we suffered, but what good, what good is it!" I could only reply by some words of sympathy, on hearing which the five women crowded round me, kissing my hands, laying their faces on my knees, and sobbing most

piteously; this circumstance I only mention to prevent it being said that all this was a got-up scene; that Turkish women should thus act to me, a Christian and a foreigner, the only one, in the midst of an astonished crowd of Turkish soldiers, will be, to any one who has lived in the East, sufficient proof that their feelings must have been very genuine and very deep.

I should remark that almost all the Turkish peasants of the district between Yeni and Eski-Zagra, in which the villages are generally inhabited by both Mussulmans and Christians, can speak Bulgarian, which will account for my informant's understanding what the Cossacks said in Russian.

Colonel Nedjib Bey, commanding the troops left at Yeni-Zaghra, told me that, on the previous day, fifty Bulgarians from the town went out, armed and taking their cattle with them, to meet Suleiman Pasha's corps d'armée, which they thought to be Russian troops, but that the advanced guard of cavalry killed them all, "and cut their heads off."

By permission of Nedjib Bey I slept that night inside the town, in an abandoned and plundered house belonging to a Turkish gentleman. As far as I could judge by a very cursory inspection, about half of Yeni-Zaghra appeared to be burnt or otherwise destroyed. No persons but ourselves and the sentries were supposed to be within the town, although it appeared that during the night some Bulgarians successfully ran the gauntlet of the sentinels and escaped outside, notwithstanding they were fired at all along the line.

Next morning I rode to the camp of Suleiman Pasha near the village of Kieurtné, three miles from Yeni-Zaghra, which had been deserted by Cossacks and Bulgarians, the latter leaving behind them a quantity of fire-arms, mostly service rifles of various patterns, Russian and Turkish, and some women and children, who were being brought into camp by the soldiers.

Suleiman Pasha spoke to me at some length on the subject of the atrocities committed by Russians and Bulgarians, begging me to communicate officially his opinion concerning them to Her Majesty's Embassy. Of this conversation I had the honour of sending to your Excellency a brief *résumé* in my telegram from Slimnia of August 8 (Inclosure 9, despatch of August 11). He told me that "it would be with the greatest difficulty he could restrain his regular troops from exercising reprisals upon Bulgarian males, although he could answer for the women and children not being massacred," i.e., by the regulars. He said he thought that his Government had committed a great mistake in calling out Bashi-Bazouks and other irregulars, who were never of any value; and in answer to a question from me denied that the Circassians did good service in the field, saying, "they only do harm to us." He mentioned information brought to him of the Bulgarians of Mâglis, near Kyzanlik, having drowned 400 Turks in the River Toundja, after tying their hands behind their backs, but merely gave it as a report, without answering for its accuracy. Had this really occurred I think I should have heard of it either at Slimnia or Yamboli, as some of the corpses must have floated down the river. Captain Fife told me that at the village of Keresté, twelve miles this side of Eski-Zaghra, he saw the charred remains of Mussulman corpses in a newly filled-in ditch reopened by order of Suleiman Pasha.

I very much fear, however, that even if barbarities on the part of Bulgarians and Russians could be put a stop to, the Turkish Government would not be able to check those committed by the "auxiliary troops" in its own service, unless, indeed, it were to take such severe measures as it does not yet seem to have thought of.

At the camp I interrogated five men, Kourbadji Oglou Ibrahim, Kotchman Oglou Mehmet, Kourbadji Oglou Rifhat, Kertik Oglou Cassim, and Mustafa Oglou Emner, from the village of Ouslanli (140 Bulgarian and 110 Turkish houses) four hours from Kyzanlik. Their depositions were as follows:—

They and many other Turks from different villages of the district were in the town of Kyzanlik when the Russians entered it about the 10th July; their names were all taken down by the Russians, their arms collected by Cossacks and Bulgarians, and themselves kept under surveillance for five days, at the end of which time all the Mussulmans not of the town were called up before the Russian authorities, a passport given to each of them, and they were told to go back to their respective villages, an order which was obeyed by all but the Turks of Yaikanli, where the Bulgarians refused them permission to enter the village. During the absence of the Mussulmans from Ouslanli the Rayahs had plundered their houses and seized all the cattle they had left behind them. On their return their Christian neighbours were constantly extorting money from them by threats of death or of torture. They also killed (shot or stabbed) five old men, Deli Hodja, Hadji Hussein Oglou Sali, Memish Oglou Hassan, Osmankiedn Ahmet Chiaous, Kourdjou Oglou Ahmet, and hung two young ones, Hassanjik Oglou Ahmet and Tyrsali Oglou Emner.

Two women—one the wife of a soldier named Haschim, the other the wife of Memishoglou—tried to leave the village for that of Kishla. The Bulgarians followed them, turned back their araba, telling them to fear nothing, brought them to the outskirts of Ouslanli, and there killed them both.

The deponents only knew of one woman (whose name they gave) being outraged.

Three Turks, of Ouslanli, and a gipsy from the same village, were killed by Cossacks in the streets of Kyzanlik whilst fetching straw for their cattle. Two of the deponents saw them murdered, and say that it seemed to be done "for the sake of killing."

During the troubles of last year, the Turks of this village, as in many others throughout the districts of Kyzanlik and the two Zagras, had been guarantees for the loyalty of their Rayah neighbours, and had protected them in every possible way.

Captain Fife advising me not to proceed in the direction of Kudirbé, Buyukhmuk, or Gueumullu Mahallési, as there were supposed still to be Cossacks in the lateral valleys, and I should run the chance of meeting them, I reluctantly gave up the intention, reflecting, however, that if I did go I should only see burnt or completely deserted villages, and probably be utterly unable to obtain any information on the spot. With respect to the village of Gueumullu Mahallési, the eye-witness of Colonel Lemox and Lieutenant Cherniside renders any confirmation of the massacre which took place there unnecessary.

A point which appears to me important, but which will probably never be thoroughly cleared up, is how far these massacres of Mussulmans by Christians, and Christians by Mussulmans, may have possessed the character of reprisals. The slaughter of Turks at Kudirbé commenced at 1 P.M. on Friday the 27th July; at sunset that evening Circassians began to massacre the Bulgarians of Gueumullu Mahallési, about twelve miles distant; and at noon on the 28th the Turks of Buyukhmuk were burnt alive. Still, although it is possible that the two latter barbarities may have been a reprisal and a counter-reprisal, I am inclined to believe that in either case they were independent acts of ferocity and fanaticism.

On leaving the camp at mid-day to return to Slimnia, I noticed that the village of Kieurtné had just been fired in two places.

About half-an-hour afterwards we met a Turkish lad of twelve or thirteen who told us that three armed Giaours had just taken from him a pair of oxen he was driving, and had taken them to the mountains. After a question or two, I asked, "Would you recognize the men?" and was immediately answered, "They weren't men, Bré! I told you they were Giaours!" ("Adam deyildir, Bré! Giaour sana seuledim!")

A little further on I noticed a long string of Bulgarian women, with a few carts, going from the plain to the mountains, and rode with one zaptieh to the middle of the caravan, sending the other with my cavass to the head, telling them to induce the women to go to the camp of Suleiman Pasha, who had expressed to me some intention of collecting and sheltering the Christian fugitives in the Balkans, "as otherwise," he said, "something disagreeable would perhaps occur."

Approaching the women, I asked them where they were going and why there were no men with them. At the latter question most of them began to sing the death song used at funerals by the Bulgarians, and others shrieked themselves almost into convulsions; one old woman kept repeating, "Oh, little good God, where art thou, where art thou!"

At last I found out from them that they were from the three villages of Caradja—Mouratli, Yeni-Mahallé, and Turkmenler—which, they said, had that day been burnt by Circassians and Turks, who had killed all the men, and looking over the low hills in that direction, I could see the smoke of burning villages. When my cavass and the zaptieh rode to the head of the caravan, one woman fainted in the road and the others knelt down, imploring that their lives might be spared; all our endeavours to persuade them to go to the camp were useless, as they said they would rather die of hunger in the mountains than be with Turks. There were about 300 women, girls, and children, and only two men with them. They threw away rifles (chiefly old Turkish service muzzle-loaders) from almost every cart, and my cavass brought some of them to show to me, and, not wishing that they should fall into the hands of either Bulgarians or Bashi-Bazouks, and not knowing what else to do with them, I had them broken and left upon the road.

On the 7th instant I had the honour of telegraphing to your Excellency (Inclosure 8 in despatch of August 11), asking authorization to prolong my stay at Slimnia, in order

to go to the Bulgarian village of Guerdemé, near Boyadjik, whose inhabitants were accused of having killed Turkish soldiers retreating after the battle at Yeni-Zagra on the 30th July, and to which troops were to be sent by the authorities.

This accusation was made on the 7th by two Mustahfiz soldiers, who said that two or three days previously they (having been wandering in the hills since the 30th July) passed with seven companions by the village; that they were fired upon by the peasants, and their seven comrades shot.

The Mutessarif promised that if I were able to go there he would send with me the Archbishop and a Turkish member of the Council, and, instead of soldiers, give us zaptiehs, some of whom we could leave for the protection of the village in case the accusation proved false.

On the evening of the 8th instant a Turk of Slimnia told me that he had that day met a number of Bashi-Bazouks, who said that they were going to destroy the villages of Guerdemé and Bohali, and that those of Caradja-Mouratli and Kara Kieurt had already been burnt.

On the morning of the 9th, when, having received no answer to my telegram of the 7th instant, I was about to start for Bourgas, I heard that Guerdemé and Bohali, together with other Christian villages, had been burnt and destroyed, but as communication between Slimnia and Bourgas is rare and uncertain, I am still (August 24) unable to say whether the report was correct or not.

From what I saw during the five weeks I spent in that neighbourhood, the three Cazas of Slimnia, Yeni-Zagra, and Yamboli are now so completely ruined that they can hardly recover within a generation; famine seems to be imminent in those districts; 90 per cent. of the villages were then deserted (now more are probably abandoned), the Turks being generally fugitives in some town, the Rayahs in the Balkans; I have been repeatedly told that the mountains are full of the corpses of Christian refugees, and I much fear that there is a good deal of truth in the report; during the last three days of my stay in Slimnia there were constant accounts (of which I have since had no opportunity of examining the accuracy) of Bulgarian villages being sacked and plundered.

Of the seven Cazas in the Sandjak of Slimnia, four, those of Bourgas, Achialo, Missevria, and Aidos, are still comparatively unhurt, that is, they have not yet suffered from wholesale plunder and murder, though robberies on a large scale frequently accompanied by murder, are becoming daily of alarming and increasing frequency, and if the Turkish Government wish to preserve them more or less intact, a regiment of regular cavalry must be sent to patrol the country, Mustahfiz soldiers with old muzzle-loading rifles being little better than useless as against Circassian horsemen armed with Winchester repeating rifles. The Circassians who devastated the neighbourhood of Slimnia said openly, though, of course, falsely, that they had permission from Constantinople to seize all property belonging to Rayahs, and to Turks who expostulated with them they answered "Ah! you don't understand it now, but later on you will know why we do so."

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

No. 66.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 1000.)
Therapia, August 27, 1877.

My Lord,

MONSEIGNEUR HASSOUN, the Patriarch of the Catholic Armenian community, called upon me two days ago; and in the course of conversation mentioned the kind treatment which the Catholics in Armenia had received from Mukhtar Pasha, and the protection that his Excellency had afforded them against the Koords. His Holiness expressed himself very grateful to Mukhtar Pasha and the Porte for what they had done for his flock, adding that the time would come when he would be able to show his gratitude in a manner which might be serviceable to the Turkish Government.

I was struck by what Monseigneur Hassoun told me; and I thought it but fair to Mukhtar Pasha, and to the regular troops under his orders, who have been indiscriminately accused of the outrages committed by the Koords, that I should report his Holiness' words to your Lordship. I accordingly requested the Patriarch to put what he had said to me in writing. This he at once expressed his readiness to do, and he has sent me the inclosed statement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Quotations from Letter of Armenian Bishop to Monseigneur Hassoun.

MONSEIGNEUR STEFAN MELKISÉDEK, Evêque, Arménien Catholique d'Erzeroum, après avoir exposé dans ses lettres des 14, 17, et 21 Juillet (v. s.), 1877, adressés à sa Révérence Monseigneur Hassoun comme quoi les Kurdes, après la retraite des Russes des provinces Arméniennes, avaient pillé et incendié plusieurs villages Chrétiens de ce district, parmi lesquels se trouvaient aussi quelques villages habités par des Arméniens Catholiques, ajouté à dire qu'il doit rendre justice aux troupes régulières Ottomanes et à la vigilance surtout de son Excellence Ahmet Moukhtar Pacha et Ismaïl Pacha; il écrit que partout où les troupes régulières Ottomanes se sont présentées, le désordre a cessé, et les actes de barbarie des Kurdes ont été réprimés; il ajoute à dire aussi que, grâce aux ordres donnés par les susdits généraux et fidèlement exécutés par les officiers subalternes, une bonne partie des objets, effets, animaux, &c., que les Kurdes avaient enlevés aux villages surtout de Molla-Suleyman et Eritzou, habités par les Arméniens Catholiques, ont été retrouvés et restitués à leurs propriétaires et que les recherches continuaient très-activement pour le recouvrement des autres objets et effets enlevés par les Kurdes, et que cette attitude des autorités régulières avait produit un excellent effet. Il déclare en particulier que si l'énergie d'Ismaïl Pacha n'avait pas réprimé en temps utile l'audace des Kurdes, ceux-ci auraient fini par exterminer les Chrétiens des provinces de Bayazid et d'Alaschgherd.

Le même Evêque, dans sa susdite lettre du 21 Juillet dernier (v. s.), écrit que les Mufti d'Erzeroum et d'autres notabilités Musulmanes étant revenues à Erzeroum après avoir poursuivi l'ennemi jusqu'à Bayazid, avaient remarqué que tous les Arméniens Catholiques étaient demeurés fidèles et fermement attachés aux ordres du Gouvernement, et qu'aucun d'eux n'avait quitté le territoire Ottoman.

C'est pourquoi le dit Mufti, et les notabilités Musulmanes, adressaient des vifs remercîments au susdit Evêque pour l'inaltérable dévoûment des Catholiques au Trône de Sa Majesté le Sultan, soit en Arménie soit dans toutes les autres provinces de la Turquie, et à haute voix ils se déclaraient nationalement obligés au Saint Père pour ses sympathies manifestées en faveur de la cause Ottomane, et pour les prescriptions adressées à plusieurs reprises aux Catholiques de l'Empire Ottoman de ne pas se départir des obligations de soumission à l'autorité du Sultan.

No. 67.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 1001.)
Therapia, August 27, 1877.

My Lord,

M. JULIUS DIETZ, the correspondent of the Berlin "Post," an influential German newspaper, was kind enough to call upon me to-day, at the request of Mr. Consul Blunt. He has just arrived from the districts of Roumelia which have been invaded by the Russians, and gave me an account of the shocking scenes that he himself witnessed there.

He states that both the Russians and Bulgarians have committed the most horrible outrages and massacres upon the Mussulman population, sparing neither old men, women, nor children. He insists upon it that the Russian troops were frequently parties to these atrocities. The Bulgarians, he says, are more like wild beasts than men; and he related to me things that he had seen too horrible to be described. He fully admitted that the Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks had committed great excesses, had plundered villages, and in some cases massacred a part of their inhabitants. But he attributed their proceedings to exasperation and revenge at the sight of their murdered and outraged fellow Mussulmans.

M. Dietz, like every one else who has had an opportunity of forming an opinion on the subject, speaks in the highest terms of the conduct of the Turkish regular troops. He told me that he had been for some years in the Austrian army, and had gone through

some campaigns, and he would venture to assert that no army in Europe was composed of soldiers whose conduct would, under the most trying and difficult circumstances, be so excellent in every respect. "They were," he said, "the finest soldiers in the world, and he was lost in admiration of them." He added that when he came to Turkey his opinions, like those of the journal for which he wrote, were altogether unfavourable to Turkey and the Turks, but that, after what he had seen, and the experience that he had had, they had undergone a complete change.

I asked M. Dietz whether, being an Austrian subject, and the correspondent of a German newspaper, he had called upon Prince Reuss and Count Zichy, and had related to them what he had told me. He said that he had done so.

I have thought it desirable to report my conversation with him, as his information, whilst coming from a fresh and independent source, completely confirms the accounts of the atrocities committed by Russians and Bulgarians which I have received from elsewhere.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 68.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 1002. Secret.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 28, 1877.*

I WAS informed yesterday, by Mr. White's telegram to your Lordship of that day's date (of which he sent me a copy), that the Emperor of Russia had paid a subsidy of 1,000,000 roubles to Prince Milan, and that it was probable that Servia would commence hostilities against Turkey within fifteen days, even before entering into a formal Convention with Russia. I had an opportunity in the evening of speaking to Server Pasha on the subject. He was perfectly well aware of the intention of Prince Milan to attack Turkey without loss of time, at the instigation of Russia. He reminded me that the Porte had long known of the preparations that were being made for this object; but whenever representations were addressed to her by the Turkish Government or by friendly Powers, she had met them with the most absolute denial, and with the most distinct assurances that she had no intention whatever of joining Russia in the war against Turkey. Such conduct, Server Pasha observed, was beyond measure disloyal and treacherous. He attributed it to Prince Milan, who, his Excellency said, had a strong party in favour of peace opposed to him. Under these circumstances, the Porte, in order to counteract the proceedings of the Prince, which were a serious danger to Turkey, had only one course to pursue, namely, to help and encourage his rival, Prince Karageorge, who was now on the Servian frontier, in attempting to bring about a revolution in the Principality, in which his Excellency believed he would secure the support of the peace party. The Turkish Government, in order to assist Karageorge, were disposed to promise that, if he succeeded in expelling Prince Milan, they would cede Little Zvornik, and make other concessions to Servia.

Server Pasha thought that by pursuing this course the Porte might counteract the contemplated proceedings of Prince Milan, and prevent an invasion of Bulgaria by the Servians, which might prove a source of serious embarrassment and of danger to Turkey. But his Excellency seemed doubtful as to the course which Austria might pursue. He had, he remarked, observed of late a change in her policy, and a leaning towards Russia, which might lead her to avail herself of a movement in Servia as a pretext to place herself altogether on the side of Russia.

I afterwards spoke to M. Christich, the Servian Agent at the Porte, respecting the proceedings of his Government. He said that they caused him great alarm, as he was convinced that another war with Turkey could only bring great misfortune upon his country. He knew, he said, that Prince Milan was resolved upon joining Russia, but he had urged M. Ristich most strongly, and would do so again, to oppose a war policy which could only be a source of danger to the dynasty and the principality.

I warned M. Christich that if Servia made an unprovoked aggression on Turkey she could expect neither support nor sympathy from Her Majesty's Government; but that, on the contrary, if hereafter she found herself in difficulties, she would not have England on her side. He admitted, with the greatest frankness, that after what Her Majesty's Government had done to save Servia from the consequences of her defeat last year, they had a right to insist upon their advice being listened to, and that the conduct of the Servian Government could not be excused.

M. Christich is, I believe, an honest man, and is truly desirous that his country should not pursue a policy which can only reduce her to the position of a Russian province, and, in the end, bring upon her great troubles. But his counsels have no weight, I believe, with the Prince and his advisers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 69.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 1003.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 28, 1877.*

THE Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs spoke yesterday very seriously to the Greek Minister respecting the attitude of Greece. His Excellency pointed out that for some time past the Hellenic Government had been openly making preparations to attack Turkey. There had been no disguise in the matter, as the Chamber had voted funds with that object, and the arrival of arms and ammunition from Russia for the purpose of arming the Greek volunteers was publicly announced. Recently an armed band, consisting of a considerable number of men, had crossed the frontier into Thessaly. They were fortunately defeated and driven back by the Turkish troops. The Hellenic Government now pretended that they were simple brigands; but the Porte had evidence that they were sent over by the Greek authorities in order to get up a rising of the Greek population in the province.

The Porte, his Excellency said, had repeatedly brought these proceedings to the notice of the Hellenic Government, and had asked for explanations. It was invariably met with assurances that "for the present" Greece had no intention of attacking Turkey. This meant simply that Greece was not yet prepared to do so, but that as soon as she was ready, and could fall upon Turkey with a prospect of success, she would make an unprovoked aggression upon her.

The Turkish Government, his Excellency declared, could no longer remain indifferent to this state of things. It required something more than vague assurances. It must have some guarantee that Greece would pursue a friendly and neighbourly policy, and would abstain from attacking Turkey under any circumstances. If such a guarantee were not forthcoming, Turkey would be under the necessity of taking such measures as she might deem fit for her own protection. She could not permit Greece to complete her preparations with impunity, and with the avowed intention of making use of them whenever the suitable time came. The Porte was determined to hold the Greek Government responsible for any bands that might cross the Turkish frontiers from Greece.

M. Coundouriotti replied to Server Pasha that he would immediately inform his Government of his Excellency's communication.

I received from both yesterday evening an identic account of what had passed between them. Server Pasha spoke as if the Turkish Government were determined to act with vigour and decision in dealing with Greece. M. Coundouriotti gave me the usual denials, excuses, and assurances; but, unfortunately, as your Lordship is too well aware, no reliance or confidence can be placed on anything that comes from the Greek Government or a Greek Agent, when the relations between Greece and Turkey are concerned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 70.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 1005.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 28, 1877.*

MAHMOUD DAMAT PASHA, who had been appointed Acting Minister of War, was yesterday superseded by Mustafa Pasha, recently Governor-General of Tripoli (Barbary), nicknamed "Fosfor," from his quick and hot temper, but said to be a man of ability, decision, and energy.

The removal of Mahmoud Damat Pasha from the important post that had been confided to him is another proof of his loss of influence over the Sultan. He still remains, however, Grand Master of the Artillery.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD

No. 71.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 1006.) *Therapia, August 28, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Mr. Consul Blunt, on the subject of Slav "atrocities."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 71.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, August 21, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 15th instant, inclosing an extract from a Circular addressed by the Porte to its Representatives abroad, relative to the atrocities alleged to have been committed by Russians and Bulgarians in the town and neighbourhood of Kyzanlik, and instructing me to report to your Excellency on the subject.

Your Excellency's instructions have in a great measure been anticipated by my despatch of the 14th instant, inclosing Raghib Effendi's narrative of occurrences at Kyzanlik during the Russian occupation of that town. As there can be no reason to suppose that the late acting Kaïmakam of Kyzanlik understated what occurred, the obvious conclusion is that, although there was no lack of bloodshed and outrages there, the accounts received by the Porte are happily much exaggerated. Those accounts must, of course, relate to the period embraced in Raghib Effendi's narrative; but it is to be remarked that the state of affairs appears to have grown worse from day to day after the town was evacuated by the Russian regulars, and thus it was not until subsequently to Raghib's departure that the worst excesses took place.

I had the honour to forward to your Excellency, this morning, a telegram worded as follows:—

"Turkish and Jewish fugitives from Kyzanlik state that the Jews there were horribly ill-treated by Bulgarians under Cossack protection. Fourteen were massacred. Thirteen of the bodies are buried in the courtyard of the synagogue. One was eaten by dogs. Among the number was a girl fifteen years of age, named Dudo Beraha, who was outraged by six Bulgarians, and then cut down. Forty-three of the Jews, some of them wounded, are among the fugitives recently saved by Circassians, and 337 with the Bulgarians of Kyzanlik, who have taken refuge in the Shipka Pass. The above massacres took place latterly, after the main body of the Russian troops had quitted the town, leaving there a detachment of Cossacks and the Bulgarian police."

I beg to inclose herewith a list of the above victims.

I have awaited the arrival, to-day and yesterday, of the fugitives, from whom I obtained the above particulars in order to be able to answer more fully the inquiries contained in your Excellency's despatch, especially as regards the fate of the Kaïmakam of Kyzanlik, Akif Effendi. My most reliable source of information on this head is Dr. Vulkovitch, a Bulgarian in the Turkish military service, who remained in charge of the hospital during the occupation, and whose faithful performance of his duties has elicited the commendations of the Vali of Adrianople. This gentleman states, with deep regret, that the unfortunate Kaïmakam was hooted and subjected to insult in the streets of Kyzanlik by the Bulgarians. He adds that it was currently reported in the town that, upon the retirement of the Russians, Akif Effendi was publicly hanged by them in Shipka Pass. This report was generally credited; but, whilst fearing it to be true, Dr. Vulkovitch considers that it requires confirmation.

I may here supply a fact mentioned by Raghib Effendi, and accidentally omitted from the narrative forwarded to your Excellency, that is, the binding and carrying off by

the Russians of four Turkish notables from Kyzanlik five or six days after the occupation of that town. These persons are Khoudji Mustafa Aga, Hadji Khalil Aga, and Hadji-Mehmed-Aga-Zade Mustafa Aga. Nothing has been heard of them since. As a similar course of proceeding is mentioned in the enclosures which I have forwarded to your Excellency regarding the villages of Yeni-Mahallé and Muderrisli, it may be assumed to form part of the system adopted by Russia during the present war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 71.

List of Jews massacred at Kyzanlik.

	Age.
1. Juda Assa	40
2. Juda Levi	40
3. Samuel Canetti	65
4. Sabetai Bijeramu	70
5. Gomato, wife of above	50
6. Arrom, his son-in-law	35
7. Bohor Beraha	45
8. His son	20
9. Dudo Beraha (girl)	15
10. Celibon Assa	40
11. Wife of Rafael Saraiga	30

Inclosure 3 in No. 71.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, August 22, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies in translation of telegrams from Suleiman Pasha, the Commander-in-chief of the army in the Balkans, and from the Mutessariff of Philippopolis, which have been communicated to me by the Vali of Adrianople, relative to barbarities alleged to have been committed by the Russians and Bulgarians on the Mussulman inhabitants in the districts adjacent to Kyzanlik.

I also inclose copies of two reports of to-day's date from Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis relative to the same subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 71.

Telegram from Suleiman Pasha, Commander-in-chief of the Army in the Balkans, dated Kyzanlik, August 7/19, 1877.

(Traduction.)

SUR la route suivie par les troupes Impériales de Ferdtitch à Kyzanlik comme dans les localités et villages avoisinants les deux ailes de l'armée, il est de toute impossibilité de compter les Musulmans, hommes, femmes, et enfants massacrés par les Cosaques et les Bulgares et que nous avons rencontrés et vus. Leurs cadavres sont jetés dans les champs, dans les vignes, et dans les fossés. Il m'est également impossible de donner le chiffre des Musulmans, hommes, femmes, et enfants assassinés dans des endroits éloignés de notre chemin et que nous n'avons pas vus, mais dont nous avons été informés par quelques hommes et femmes échappés au massacre et venus au quartier général. Les officiers et fonctionnaires étrangers se trouvant avec notre état-major ont vu avec surprise et un profond regret les corps des victimes qui se trouvaient sur les lieux. Les faits prouvent suffisamment que dans ces localités les Bulgares se sont livrés sans motif et d'une façon sauvage à un massacre général. Ainsi, au village Okhlandy (Ingalanly), à l'exception d'une jeune fille de sept ans qui a pu s'échapper, tous les Musulmans, grands et petits, hommes et femmes, ont été indistinctement massacrés. Aujourd'hui à l'arrivée de l'armée impériale au village Kotchisteressi près de Kyzanlik, quelques femmes et enfants Musulmans, que nous venions de sauver par notre présence, nous ont appris, dans des termes lamentables, que les seules personnes échappées au massacre connus jusqu'à présent par les Cosaques et les Bulgares sur les habitants Musulmans

du dit village, et se composant de soixante-dix hommes et d'un grand nombre de femmes, lesquelles avaient préféré mourir plutôt que de livrer leurs corps, ont été tous massacrés hier soir par les Bulgares.

Prendre à l'aide d'assurances trompeuses et perfides les armes des Musulmans pour les livrer aux Bulgares et massacrer ensuite les premiers les mains et les pieds liés en quelque sorte comme des moutons; commettre surtout un tel crime sur de faibles femmes et des enfants à la mamelle, que les sauvages mêmes devraient respecter et protéger, ce sont là de ces atrocités qui, perpétrées dans d'aussi horribles circonstances, attristeront éternellement l'Islam et l'humanité et qu'à part les Russes et les Bulgares aucune nation ayant de l'honneur ne saurait ni commettre ni tolérer. Nous supplions, les larmes aux yeux, le Dieu très juste et sévère de venger sur ces criminels de la pire espèce le sang de toutes ces innocentes victimes Musulmanes. Au village de Bayghinly les parties génitales des Musulmans assassinés ont été placés près des cadavres de leurs femmes et les corps de leurs enfants entre eux. Il me répugne de décrire toutes les choses honteuses et blessantes pour l'humanité commises sur les femmes Musulmanes massacrées et qui ont fait sangloter et pleurer nos soldats. En outre, des Musulmans (hommes et femmes) ont été traînés à l'église et contraints à se convertir. Toutes ces iniquités ont été accomplies à l'effet de préparer par l'extermination, dans ces contrées, des Musulmans, la voie devant conduire au but criminel poursuivi.

Inclosure 5 in No. 71.

Telegram from the Mutessarif of Philippopolis, dated August $\frac{9}{21}$, 1877.

(Translation.)

IT is with great sorrow that I hasten to inform you of the following circumstances which have been reported to me by Major-General Rassim Pasha :—

When the Bulgarians of Kalofer broke out into revolt lately, they massacred, with great barbarity, from 110 to 120 Musulman gipsies, inhabitants of that place, 70 of the number being women, and the rest men. This fact was announced to Rassim Pasha by three women who, after having been wounded, contrived to escape from the massacre.

During the general massacre of the Mussulmans of the village of Sarbanly (Lagahanly), in the Caza of Kyzanlik, by the Bulgarian insurgents, only two women and one girl managed to effect their escape after being wounded; and these women told Suleiman Pasha that they were completely ignorant of the fate of the other inhabitants.

Rassim Pasha was able to certify, from ocular proofs, that the Bulgarians burnt alive the inhabitants of the Mussulman villages in the neighborhood of Hamidly, after fastening their hands behind their backs.

Inclosure 6 in No. 71.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Consul Blunt.

Adrianople, August 22, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that four Turkish fugitives, leading men from the district of Kyzanlik, related to me yesterday that during the occupation of that place by the Russians, the Mussulman population was not molested, and no disturbances took place, but that no sooner did the intelligence reach that the army of Suleiman Pasha had retaken Eski-Zaghra, when those Bulgarians wearing the Russian uniform, together with the Bulgarian residents of Kyzanlik, commenced ill-treating the Turks and Jews, killing those who urged that they had been previously despoiled by other Bulgarians.

Fourteen Jews were in this manner massacred in their houses by Bulgarians at the instigation of Cossacks, who, in the meanwhile, looked on. Among the victims was a Jewish woman named Duga Bhena, who was first ravished by six Bulgarians, and afterwards cut into pieces.

It is also stated that forty Jewish women and children were saved from horrible cruelties by Circassians, while about 300 others took refuge in the Shipka Pass.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Inclosure 7 in No. 71.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Adrianople, August* 22, 1877.

CONTINUING my despatch of this morning, I have the honour to acquaint you that Solomon Bigerano, a fugitive from Kyzanlik, and one of fifteen victims of an awful tragedy which occurred there last Sunday, related to me that on the outbreak of troubles in Kyzanlik, following the recapture of Eski-Zaghra by the Turks, he, along with fourteen Israelites—men, women, and children—took refuge in a house, where they remained concealed until the 5th instant, when a Bulgarian named Simeon, a vineyard keeper, and two others, also Bulgarians, armed, and wearing a Slav uniform, came to the house. After ordering them to give up what money and jewels they had, conducted them to another room, and fastening their arms behind their backs, the man Simeon drew his pistol, and continued firing at the crowd of men, woman, and children until they were all killed, with the exception of one man, who was wounded and afterwards taken to Shipka, and the narrator, who tells me twenty shots were fired at him. He is wounded in the right knee and hand.

The following are the names of the killed and wounded, namely :—

1. Juda Hasa, age 40.
2. Samuel Kanite, age 60.
3. Celebon Hasa, age 40.
4. Sabel Beraha and his wife.
5. Kalé, age 50.
6. Boher Beraha and his son.
7. Solomon, age 18.
8. Elhiza Fahir, age 40.
9. Michael Scanaji, age 45.
10. Daniel Beraha, age 20.
11. Abraham Majian, wounded, taken to Shipka.
12. Luna, age 50, wife of Boher Levi.
13. Juda, } Children of Luna and Boher Levi.
14. Rachael, }
15. Solomon Bigerano, wounded.

The narrator of this terrible occurrence also relates that 337 men, woman, and children were carried off by Cossacks to Shipka, among whom was a young woman named Mazanta, age 19, the daughter of Abraham Begeran. She was taken to Shipka by Bulgarians, and given over to two Cossacks, who, according to the statement of a relative of my informant, violated her in a room in her grandfather's house.

My informant seems to confirm the statement made me yesterday that during the occupation of Kyzanlik by the Russians, from the 20th July to the 5th instant, no disorders of any importance took place, and that it was only on the receipt of the news of the retaking of Eski-Zaghra by the Turks that the massacre of great numbers of Turks and the Jews above mentioned occurred.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

No. 72.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 1007.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 28, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches which I have received from Mr. Consul Reade relating to the state of affairs at Rustchuk and Kavarna, and to Russian atrocities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 72.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

Varna, August 25, 1877.

Sir,

HAVING been able to visit Rustchuk, where I was for three days, I on the 19th instant sent you two reports therefrom.

On the 20th the Governor-General sent to inform the Italian Consul, who had re-established the Consulate at Rustchuk, that the Commander-in-chief had telegraphed from Rasgrad that he wished to see him, and if I had nothing to do he would also be glad to see me.

Next morning, consequently, we left, and on seeing Mehemet Ali Pasha, his Excellency told M. de Gubernatis that he had been requested by the Etat Major (Staff) to beg him (M. De Gubernatis) to withdraw entirely from Rustchuk.

The motives for this request were various, the first was that it had been decided by the military authorities of Rustchuk as absolutely necessary to cause the evacuation of the town by all non-combatants. This had already been attempted, but the people had had recourse to the Italian Consul, which had put great difficulties in their way. Then, should Rustchuk be besieged and taken by the Russians, it has been decided to raze the whole place to the ground, in case the enemy occupied the place during the winter. His Excellency gave other minor motives, and proposed that they should both write to Constantinople on the subject, but M. de Gubernatis said he would write, and added that it was not necessary for Mehemet Ali to do so, to which his Excellency consented.

From what I had heard from the Turks, I confess I was not at all surprised at the request, and I am of opinion that it would be very unwise in any Consul to insist upon remaining.

Mehemet Ali told me that there was no objection whatever to my continuing to go to Rustchuk occasionally, as long as it was possible to do so without the risk of being shut in.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 72.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

Varna, August 25, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency, herewith inclosed, list of the people wounded by Russian soldiers (as they said to me), about the end of June or beginning of July last, as near as I could make out from their statements, and whom I saw when lately at Rasgrad.

The Jablanow victims stated that they were very savagely attacked, and said that they did not know what they had done to provoke it. They told me, also, that they had heard from fugitives that many other villages in their district were attacked in a similar manner. I asked to see some of these fugitives, but they could not tell me where I could find them.

I was also told by several, including Mehemet Ali Pasha, that there was a young woman at Shumla who had been violated by Russians, and who had had both her breasts hacked off. I found out the house where she had been, but as she had died, and been already buried, I did not see her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 72.

LIST of Natives of Yahlavlaru, or Jablanov, a village six hours from Rustchuk, and about four from Bicla, wounded by Russian soldiers about the end of June or beginning of July, and visited by Consul Reade on the 23rd August, 1877. The village is composed of about 300 Mussulman houses and about 50 Bulgarian.

1. Boy. Ibrahim, 7 years of age, three lance-wounds on back, and one sabre-wound through left thigh, the latter severe.

2. Girl. Vaiya, aged 18 years, several sabre-wounds on head and on right shoulder. The head wounds very severe.

3. Woman. Fatma, aged 60, five severe sabre-wounds on head and back. Still suffering much from those on head.

4. Woman. Aisha, aged 40, four sabre-wounds on head, both arms, and stomach.

Aisha's husband Ali and two children were horribly massacred by soldiers before her eyes. From what she had suffered, all her fellow-sufferers evinced great sympathy for this woman before me.

One very old woman, with lance-wounds in several places, was suffering so much that I could not speak to her. I afterwards heard that she had died soon after I left. Five others have died since they reached Rasgrad.

I was told by these that about forty other women and children were killed outright on the spot, and about seven wounded so badly that they could not move, and must have been massacred. Many of the others managed to escape, although they were followed by Russian soldiers.

I also saw and spoke to a man named Ali, aged 50, from Girshova, between Rasgrad and Biela, with a severe gun-shot wound right through, from back to front, about the centre, and who was shot by a Russian soldier, as he was taking three horses to water; three others were killed outright near him. They were surprised by the enemy about thirty-five days ago.

(Signed) R. READE.

Varna, August 25, 1877.

Inclosure 4 in No. 72.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

Varna, August 25, 1877.

Sir,

I YESTERDAY had a conversation with Fahir Bey, the Mutessarif here, as to what he has done respecting the Kavarna affair.

He told me that he has persuaded most of the refugees to return, that he has taken all the measures required for their protection and that they are gathering in their crops as fast as possible.

He is, moreover, taking steps for finding their lost property, some of which has fortunately been found. As he went himself to the spot he is sure that all his orders are being carried out.

As regards the culprits in the late disaster at Kavarna, he told me that from all the information he obtained, he is of opinion that the principal one is the Yuzbashi Mehemet Aga, who is under trial here.

He then considers several Circassian chiefs also of the guilty parties. Two of these are concealed in a village near Shumla, and he has applied to the Governor there for their arrest and despatch to this.

He concluded by saying that from all he has seen and heard he considers that the Yuzbashi and the Circassians I have named richly deserve to be shot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 5 in No. 72.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

(Extract.) *Rustchuk, August* 19, 1877.

AS regards the Bashi-Bazouks, I find that they have not given much trouble here, which, from what I have heard, I attribute to the severe measures taken in the beginning in their respect by the Vali, who had a number of them flogged for acts which, though not serious, if overlooked would have led to far more serious ones. I also hear that the Circassians, of whom there are a great number here, have not given much trouble in the town, but in the country districts they have been what they are everywhere.

I am consequently happy to say that there has been little or no pillaging since I was last here. The fact is there are many well-disposed Mussulmans here who have set their face against all acts of disorder, and, indeed, who are friendly to their Christian fellow citizens.

Inclosure 6 in No. 72.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

Rustchuk, August 19, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that on Tuesday the 14th instant, at about 6·30 P.M., the Russian batteries between the village Slobosia and Giurgevo again opened fire on this town, and continued to bombard it the whole night and the next day, till about 11 A.M.

From the commencement till about 8 P.M. the fire was very hot; during the night it was kept up at intervals, but at 6 A.M. the next morning it again became very violent, and continued so to the end.

About nightfall the fire was directed on a flour-mill belonging to an Hellene named Giorgiades, and over which the Greek flag was flying. The mill was set on fire and entirely destroyed. It was to the west of the town, and had escaped the first bombardments.

Several residents in the vicinity were killed and others wounded. Other parts of the town suffered, but as most of the population left it at the commencement of the bombardment, the casualties were comparatively few, ten being killed (two being regulars and two zaptiehs) and ten inhabitants wounded. Between 300 and 400 shells were fired on the town.

The batteries on this side did not reply until next morning, when the Vali, not being able to imagine any other object in the bombardment than that of demolishing the town, ordered some of his batteries to open on Giurgevo.

The exasperation here in general is very great, no one being able to make out any other object in the fire on the town than that of its destruction and that of the population. No provocation whatever had been given, and there was no military movement to support.

About ten days ago, twenty-five Russian battalions crossed the Danube by a bridge formed at a point called Batin, just above Pyrgos, some three hours distant from this up the river; and I was this morning told by the Vali that it has been ascertained that they have retraced their steps, but with what object no one here can imagine.

Some unimportant affairs have, during the past few days, taken place between Circassians and Cossacks within a few hours of this place, but in which the Cossacks were invariably beaten back with loss.

There are between twenty and twenty-five battalions here, and a regiment of cavalry.

The Vali is also Commandant, with Mustafa Pasha as Ferik, and Halil Pasha as Liva.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 73.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 1010.)
My Lord,

Therapia, August 28, 1877.

I HAVE the honour inclose copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Blakeney on the state of affairs at Prevesa and its neighbourhood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Layard.

Prevesa, August 18, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to my letter of the 4th instant, marked Confidential, reporting the arrival at Janina of a certain M. Epaminondas Mavromatis, I have now the honour to acquaint your Excellency that, according to information received since from M. Kypriotis, the above individual left Janina for Santi Quaranta on the 10th instant, greatly annoyed it would seem with the Greek Consul, M. Londos, because the preparations made by the

Committee there were not in accordance with the instructions he had sent to them. M. Kypriotis also reports that a brigand was killed on the 2nd instant by the Government troops close to the village of Kameni (Fagori), and another was captured. The latter, who was brought to Janina, was made to carry on his back the head of the former. These two brigands belonged to a band about fifteen strong, and were concealed for about ten days in a wood close to the above-mentioned village. It is suspected, however, that this band was not a band of brigands but of insurgents. About sixty horse-loads of rifles and ammunition were dispatched from Janina to Fagori.

Two steamers arrived at Prevesa on Wednesday evening with a cargo of rifles (muzzle-loaders) and ammunition.

The Greeks appear to be actively employed in carrying on their military preparations, and, according to a private letter from the British Vice-Consul at Santa Maura, a schooner arrived there from Marseilles with war materials for the Committee of the "National Defence" on Tuesday last. I also hear, but from another source, that the second reserve has been called out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BLAKENEY.

No. 74.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 1013. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Therapia, August 28, 1877.

AHMED VEFYK PASHA, the President of the Chamber, has been named Governor-General of Adrianople, with extraordinary powers, which render him independent of the military authorities, and give him jurisdiction over the Bulgarian districts at the northern foot of the Balkans. The appointment was suggested by the Sultan himself.

When offered to Ahmed Vefyk Pasha he declined to accept it, except on the condition that the control of military affairs was withdrawn from Mahmoud Damat Pasha. The Sultan consented, and, as I have informed your Lordship in another despatch, the late Acting Minister of War has been superseded by Mustafa Pasha.

Ahmed Vefyk Pasha tells me that persons about the Sultan had endeavoured to prevail upon His Majesty to deal very harshly with the Bulgarians, whom they represented to him as, without exception, rebels to his authority, and deserving of the severest punishment. Ahmed Vefyk Pasha begged His Majesty to understand that he would go to his government not to execute vengeance upon the Bulgarians, but to reward those who had been faithful to His Majesty, and to pardon and conciliate those who may have been led astray. He expressed his hope that His Majesty would not be induced to issue any commands which might be at variance with these intentions, otherwise he should be under the necessity of asking His Majesty to confide the mission to some other of his servants. The Sultan, the Pasha told me, received his observations very kindly, and begged him to do what he thought best for the good of the country and of his subjects.

Ahmed Vefyk Pasha's proverbial integrity, his recognized ability and his firmness of character, should make him an admirable Governor for, perhaps, the most important part of the Empire at this moment. It is to be hoped that his tendency to have his own way in all things, and to treat somewhat intolerantly and impatiently those who do not conform to it, will not stand in the way of his remaining in a position in which he may do much for the benefit of the Christian and Mussulman populations. I have had a long conversation with him as to the course that he is about to pursue. He condemns the hasty executions that have taken place of Bulgarians accused of being concerned in the insurrection, and assures me that he intends to deal with the Bulgarian prisoners with justice, humanity, and clemency. He has long had very friendly relations with some of the principal Bulgarian families, and he hopes through them to be able to prevail upon the Bulgarians who have accompanied the Russians to return to their allegiance and their homes. I trust that he may be successful.

Ahmed Vefyk Pasha has been doing much of late for the relief of the Mussulman, Christian, and Jewish fugitives, and has established some hospitals for the reception of the sick and wounded women and children. He has given me great assistance in employing, to the best advantage, a part of the funds placed so generously at my disposal by Baroness Burdett Coutts. His kind and humane disposition will, I feel

convinced, lead him to help and relieve the destitute and starving people who are now crowded at Adrianople and in the neighbourhood.

I have requested Mr. Blunt to do all that may be in his power to assist Ahmed Vefyk Pasha, who is disposed to maintain the most cordial relations with Her Majesty's Consul.

I attach much importance to Ahmed Vefyk Pasha's mission, as I believe that it may do great good, and may serve the cause of humanity. I trust that I may not be disappointed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 75.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 1015.) *Therapia, August 29, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to Consul R. Reade's despatch No. 65 of the 25th instant, a copy of which I transmit to your Lordship to-day, I have the honour to state that the Yuz-Bashi, Mehemet Aga, is now in prison awaiting his trial for his share in the events at Kavarna, and that I am doing my best to have him punished as he deserves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 76.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 1016.) *Therapia, August 29, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose some extracts from a report by Captains McCalmont and Trotter, Military Attachés to the Embassy, and now at the head-quarters of Ismail Pasha on the Russian Asiatic frontier, respecting the excesses committed by the Kurdish irregulars accompanying the Turkish army. I have been unable to have a translation made of Ismail Pasha's Proclamation referred to in time to go home by to-day's messenger. It will be forwarded to your Lordship by the next.

I have requested General Sir Arnold Kemball to convey my approval to Captains McCalmont and Trotter, of the steps they have taken to bring to the knowledge of Ismail Pasha the lawless proceedings of the Kurds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 76.

Report by Captains McCalmont and Trotter.

Camp near Zor, August 10, 1877.

(Extract.)

WE have the honour to report that we sought out and obtained a formal interview with his Excellency the Mushir Ismail Pasha, for the purpose of protesting against the barbarities that had been committed by the Kurds since their entry into Russian territory, and expressing a hope that strong measures would be taken to prevent their recurrence. Prior to the interview, we conjointly drew up a document, copy of which is attached, the substance of which was repeated in Turkish by our interpreter in our presence to his Excellency. We thought it desirable to refrain from specifying any individual instance of wrong that had come to our knowledge, as such statements would probably have led to contradiction and argument,* which would have been undesirable,

* In discussing the case (which was reported to you by Captain McCalmont), with an officer high in authority here, the murders complained of were promptly asserted to be the acts of Russian Bashi-Bazouks. It was stated that the sufferers were refugees from Turkish villages (Ulch Kilisse), who had been temporarily settled down here, and who, on refusing to accompany the Russians on a second retreat, were cut down by the Russian irregulars.

and might have led us astray from the special object we had in view, viz., the prevention if possible, of similar outrages in future.

His Excellency received our protest in very good part, and stated that he was aware that the Bashi-Bazouks had committed various acts of which himself and the regular army were ashamed, but that he had been unceasing in his endeavours to bring the offenders to punishment, that he had already, as we had ourselves seen, punished severely several men who had been caught in the act of plundering Russian villages, that he had received orders from the Sublime Porte to pay for supplies taken, but that the Russians had themselves thrown difficulties in his way by removing the inhabitants of all the neighbouring villages. The horde of irregulars that accompanied his force was a necessary evil, but he was doing and would continue to do all in his power to prevent them from committing outrages in future, either to persons or property. The Kurdish Chiefs were daily pressing him for permission to attack some of the numerous villages within striking distance, but he always refused such demands.

He then dilated at some length on the provocation the Turks had received at the hands of the Russians, who primarily had invaded their country and their hearths, and although in advancing they had treated the inhabitants well, they had, on retiring, committed various outrages, and had carried off *nolens volens* the whole of the Armenian population on their track, in addition to murdering several Mahommedans.

We replied that although in some instances the Russians had doubtless behaved badly, yet that this was not universally the case, of which we had ourselves had ocular demonstration at Olti, when accompanying the Turkish left wing. At that place the Russians had committed no outrages of any kind, either while advancing or retiring.

His Excellency then alluded to other grievances against the Russians, such as their having crossed the frontier and taken a number of prisoners before the actual declaration of war, of their keeping in confinement at Erivan or Gumri (I am not sure which) the family of his nephew Hosein Bey, in spite of the fact that Russian subjects, with the exception of Consuls and Consular servants, were permitted to remain in Turkish territory, &c.

We brought the interview to an end by thanking his Excellency for his courteous reception of us, and for the promises he had made. We told him that from our daily intercourse with the officers and soldiers under his command we were aware that they, equally with ourselves, were indignant at the outrages of the Kurds. We finally expressed a hope that the measures he was taking would prove successful in the prevention of outrages in future.

We trust that the steps we have taken with regard to these outrages will meet with the approval of Her Majesty's Ambassador. Although here for the express purpose of watching and reporting on military operations, we felt it incumbent on us as British officers to take serious notice of what has occurred in the, I trust, not vain hope of aiding in the prevention of similar occurrences in future.

* * * * * *

August 12, 1877.

Shortly after our return to camp his Excellency the Mushir asked us to visit him. We did so, and his Excellency read out to us a proclamation (copy of which I inclose for the information of Her Majesty's Ambassador) which is now being distributed to all the heads of the army, regular and irregular, for information and guidance. The document is certainly worth perusing for the admirable philanthropic sentiments which it contains, and is certainly a proof, if such were wanted, that the Mushir is not such a bigoted fanatic as he has been represented to be. If a real attempt be made to act up to the principles now laid down, the Russian villagers may be congratulated. We were glad to observe after yesterday's combat that the houses in the three captured villages were not fired, with the exception of the Russian Government block-house, which it was of course perfectly legitimate to destroy. A large number of Kurdish robbers were bastinadoed close by our tent to-day for malpractices in neighbouring villages.

Inclosure 2 in No. 76.

Captains McCalmont and Trotter to Ismail Pasha.

(NOTE.—The original protest was drawn up in French for the convenience of our interpreter. The following is an English *verbatim* translation:—)

We have heard with great regret that the irregular soldiers attached to the army have, since their entry into Russian territory, committed murders and other acts of oppression on the inhabitants of one or more of the neighbouring villages. We are aware that your Excellency, as well as the officers and soldiers of the regular army, regret these excesses as much as we do ourselves, and that your Excellency had striven beforehand to prevent their occurrence; but, nevertheless, unfortunately, great cruelties and oppression had been committed, and as soldiers ourselves, and as official representatives of the British Government,—a Government which is, and which wishes to remain, on friendly terms with the Sublime Porte,—we feel bound to protest most strongly, both in the name of the English nation, and in the interests of humanity, against the barbarities that had been committed; and we pray your Excellency to take every possible means in his power to prevent any such excesses in future, as well as to seek out and bring to punishment those who had been already guilty.

(Signed) HUGH McCALMONT, *Captain, Additional Military Attaché.*
HENRY TROTTER, *Captain, R.E., Additional Military Attaché.*

No. 77.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 57. Political.)

Canea, Crete, August 23, 1877.

My Lord,

THE lamentable assassination of the two Mussulman shepherds which I had the honour to mention in both my last despatches is still producing evil consequences. Nothing can more strikingly exemplify the want of confidence felt by the people in the power of the Government to protect them than the spectacle afforded by whole villages emptying themselves of their inhabitants and seeking refuge in this town, because, forsooth, it became known that two Mussulmans had lost their lives in a fray with a band of sheep-stealers, who happened to be Christians. These robbers by no means confine their depredations to the property of the Moslems, but prey with perfect impartiality on any flocks within their reach, and the two victims lately killed were notorious sheep-stealers themselves. The murder took place on the night between Friday and Saturday, and on Sunday morning, the 19th instant, the Moslem refugees came flocking into this town, into the Christian village of Galata, and into the mixed village of Darazzo, both situated an hour's distance from here. On the following day, the principal inhabitants of the large Christian village of Lakos and of the surrounding places, to the number of more than 100, waited on the Governor-General, and entreated his Excellency to put a stop to the senseless movement, assuring him that neither they nor any other Christians had the slightest intention of doing injury to the Mussulmans, and offering to enrol themselves into a band of volunteers with the special object of preventing any acts of lawlessness. That same day, Monday, stray families continued to flock hither, and on Tuesday the Christian inhabitants of Galata, terrified by the crowds of Moslem fugitives taking up their quarters in their village, began themselves to seek an asylum in this town, and their example was quickly followed by the Christian village of Peribolio. As soon as it became apparent that the Christians were abandoning their villages, the Vali gave orders for them to be stopped and sent back, while free ingress is permitted to the Moslems, the distinction thus made between the two classes of the Sultan's subjects causing a painful surprise. The streets are thronged with the helpless fugitives, who have only a panic fear to account for their flight, for no series of crimes of violence has occurred, which alone could justify it. It is true a Mussulman of Selino was wounded by Christians some six weeks ago, and a zaptieh was killed in a drunken brawl about the same time. On the other hand, a Christian had been killed by a zaptieh, and some others had been beaten and maltreated. Most of the new-comers are very poor, and it is difficult to see how they are to be fed for any length of time,

as it is as much as the Government can do to supply food to its own troops, and the townspeople in these hard times cannot long bear the burden of supporting their Mussulman guests. It is probable that the memory of the liberal manner in which the same class of the population had been fed at the expense of the State during the last insurrection has contributed not a little to prompt them to return; but the times are changed, and they are not likely now to find themselves in a field of clover. It is certain that the addition to the population of a large indigent class, who have all brought their arms with them, constitutes a serious danger to the public peace, as the Mussulmans freely attribute all their misfortunes to the Christians, who are credited by malicious rumours with the worst intentions.

The Mussulmans of Selino have not helped to swell the present immigration, the troops sent thither having effectually allayed their alarms. It is a misfortune that the presence of the garrison of Canea does not inspire the Christians with the same confidence, and many of them are desirous to quit an island where the troubled state of society causes them anxiety, but the strictest orders have been in force for the last two months to prevent anyone leaving unless they can prove that they are called away by business. I ventured in my despatch No. 37 of the 18th June to call your Lordship's attention to this measure, which seems to me likely at any moment to produce the very alarm which Samih Pasha fancies it calculated to allay, nor have I heard of any town or city in the Empire where a similar measure has been resorted to.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

P.S.—*August 27.* I have the honour to add that Vice-Admiral Hornby telegraphed to me on the 24th instant his intention of despatching Her Majesty's ship "Torch" to Canea, but up to the present time she has not appeared. The town has become more tranquil, and provided no fresh murder occurs, I apprehend no danger.

T. B. S.

No. 78.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 58. Political.)

Canea, Crete, August 25, 1877.

My Lord,

WHEN I had the honour of acquainting your Lordship in my despatch No. 55 of the 18th instant with the doings of the Chiefs and Deputies of the Cretan Christians, I stated that there was a fair prospect of their quietly dispersing as soon as the petition which they had drawn up had received its complement of signatures. Samih Pasha had taken into his confidence two chiefs who were in the employ of the Government, and they had persuaded his Excellency that by the exercise of a little patience the people's Deputies would be induced to return quietly to their several homes as soon as the signing of their petition was accomplished. In order to hasten so desirable a consummation the Pasha indirectly encouraged the citizens of this town to elect their deputies likewise, and to send them with all speed to the camp in Apokorona, that thus no pretext might be furnished for prolonging the existence of the meeting. Had this prudent policy been persevered in, it is the opinion of those who know the Cretans best that it would have been entirely successful, but the Vali having fallen under the influence of new counsellors executed a sudden change of front, and sent the Kaïmakam of Sphakia to the camp of the malcontents with the intimation that if after a certain day the meeting did not dissolve he would employ force to disperse it. His Excellency also got a declaration drawn up and signed by a few men ready to stoop to any baseness, which, with extravagant expressions of loyalty, proclaims the attachment of the Cretans to the existing Government, and disclaims any complicity with the turbulent band of agitators in Apocorona, who are stigmatized as malfactors and insurgents whom it behoves the authorities to prosecute. The mass of names attached to this document are those of ignorant peasants, but great pressure is being brought to bear on the most respectable townspeople to induce them to sign it, and they are given to understand that if they refuse to do so they will be regarded as abettors of insurrection. I have been at the pains to explain the origin of this document, because it is to be published in Greek, Turkish, and French in the Constantinople newspapers, with the object of proving to the world that the discontent of the Cretans is an invention of the enemies of the Government, but the device is too transparent to impose on any one who is conversant with the way in

which such "mazbatas" are concocted in Turkey. The Christians of Canea would undoubtedly like to procure the privileges solicited in the petition now signing in Apokorona if they could be had for the asking, but they are not the sort of people to stir up insurrection for the sake of a boon of that kind. Indeed, it has become evident that though the Cretan Christians in general deeply feel the inferiority of their position *vis-à-vis* the Mussulmans, and have just reason to complain of the partial way in which the laws are administered, they are not prepared, since they have seen the turn military affairs are taking in Bulgaria, to have recourse to extremities in order to ameliorate their lot.

The Kaïmakam of Sphakia returned from his mission yesterday and reports that there is only a nucleus of sixty men in Apokorona. These men protest that their designs are purely pacific; that they deeply regret the murder of the two Moslem shepherds, for which they are nowise responsible; they assert they have committed no illegal act; that they have a legal right of petitioning the Sultan, and they ended by expressing their determination to remain assembled until the deputies from all the districts have subscribed their signatures. It is clear that the true policy of the Pasha is to temporize, and the gathering will gradually melt away.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

P.S. 27*th August*.—I find that the message sent by Smith Pasha to the chiefs assembled in Apokorona was most conciliating. His Excellency wrote to them to suggest that the petition they were charged with might more readily be signed in Canea and in the chief towns of the several districts, and he invited them to disperse, as their gathering in the open country was calculated to produce disorders. He added, however, that if they continued to reject his counsels he should see himself reluctantly compelled to resort to other measures.

It is greatly to be desired that the Porte could be induced to send a Commission to discuss with the Cretans on the spot the grievances of which they complain. A man like Kostaki Adossides Pasha or Karatheodorides Effendi, as the Christian member of such a Commission, would have every chance, in the present mood of the Cretans, of bringing about a reasonable compromise, and of thus warding off a disastrous struggle, which would complete the ruin of the island.

Subsequent efforts made by the Vali to induce respectable Cretans to sign the petition of which I have had the honour to give an account in this despatch have signally failed, and his Excellency would be taking a more dignified course by suppressing it altogether.

T. B. S.

No. 79.

Consul St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 6.*)

(No. 6. Political.) *Ragusa, August 27, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that my Italian colleague, M. Durando, who is accredited to the Prince of Montenegro, left a few days since for Cettigné, and that on the 25th instant he was followed by Count Soristori, an Italian Deputy, who, it is said, is on his way there to give advice, the nature of which can only be presumed. Though M. Durando, on his hurried departure for Cettigné, wrote me a few lines to inform me that he was going merely to present his respects to the Prince to whom he was accredited, I have every reason to believe that there is more importance attached to his journey, especially as ever since my arrival at Ragusa he has never lost an opportunity to impress upon me his dislike to his visits to Montenegro, and his determination never to go there unless expressly ordered to do so by his Government.

I hear that M. Durando enjoys the confidence of Prince Nicholas, and that a very good understanding exists between him and the Russian Agent. As the latter, whose acquaintance I have not yet made, still continues with the Prince, it is generally believed that his Highness is entirely guided by the advice he receives from these two gentlemen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 80.

Consul St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 6.*)

(No. 7. Political.) *Ragusa, August 27, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that, during the night of the 21st instant, 16 cannons and 2,000 cases containing munitions of war were landed at Castelastua, a small Dalmatian port near Budua, and, with the cognizance of the Austrian authorities, taken across Austrian territory into Montenegro, where some 1,200 or 1,300 men and women were waiting to convey them into the interior.

Though the Austrian Government may be ignorant of the above facts, and consequently may deny the truth of such a report if brought to their notice, I should have no difficulty in ascertaining the name of the vessel from which these munitions were landed and in pointing out the authorities under whose eyes this breach of neutrality was effected.

The ignorance of the Austrian Government with regard to the proceedings of their representatives in Southern Dalmatia may be explained by the fact that the latter, strongly sympathizing with Panslavism, are carrying out the autonomy of the country to its fullest extent, and quite independently of the Imperial Government, who appear unwilling to risk a rising in Dalmatia by substituting *bonâ fide* Austrian officials for those now in power.

As an instance of the strong feeling in favour of the Slave cause existing among officials here, and of their entire indifference as to the views held by their chiefs at Vienna, I deem it not inopportune to mention that Mr. Harry Slade, who arrived here a few days ago on his way to Turkey in charge of an ambulance, had a telegram to the "Times" stopped by the Director of Telegraphs at Ragusa because the tenor of his communication, though favourable to the Imperial Government, was not in accordance with the views held by the officials at Ragusa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 81.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 6.*)

(No. 716. Confidential.) *Vienna, September 5, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Consul St. John's despatch No. 7 of the 27th ultimo, reporting the landing in Dalmatia of guns and contraband of war, and their being conveyed to Montenegro over Austrian territory, with the alleged connivance of the provincial authorities, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I mentioned this report to-day to Baron Orczy. His Excellency said, in reply, that a Vienna newspaper had lately reported an incident of the kind, and that Aleko Pasha made a representation to the Government with respect to it, but that the Ministry for Foreign Affairs have no reason to believe that any such occurrence had taken place.

I also acquainted him with the statement in Mr. St. John's despatch respecting the detention at Ragusa of a telegram to the "Times," because the writer's views did not coincide with those of the telegraph officials, as another proof of the unjustifiable manner in which the officers of the Government in Dalmatia are in the habit of sacrificing their duty to their political sympathies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 82.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September 6.*)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 4 September, 1877.*

RECU télégrammes spéciaux, Nos. 449, 450.

Veuillez exprimer à Lord Derby les remercîments les plus vifs de la Sublime Porte

pour des démarches qu'il vous a promis de faire à Athènes, et nous espérons qu'elles produiront un effet salutaire sur le Gouvernement Hellénique. Les assurances que le Cabinet d'Athènes a données tant à la Sublime Porte qu'au Gouvernement Britannique ne sont malheureusement pas faites pour nous tranquilliser complètement. Elle se manifestent, en effet, sous une forme équivoque, M. Tricoupi n'oubliant jamais d'ajouter dans ses déclarations des mots tels que "maintenant" ou "pour le moment," qui dénotent une arrière-pensée chez le Gouvernement Hellénique.

D'autre part, les préparatifs militaires en Grèce sont toujours poussés avec la plus grande activité. Nos dernières informations portaient qu'avant la fin de ce mois l'armée Hellénique atteindra le chiffre de 32,000 hommes environ. Toutes ces forces seront réparties entre les points principaux de la frontière où des officiers du génie ont été déjà chargés d'élever des ouvrages de fortifications.

Des armes de toute espèce, des munitons de toute nature, parviennent continuellement au Gouvernement et aux Comités comme ceux de la "Fraternité," du "Centre Crétois," et du "Gréco-Slave," qui, ainsi que leurs noms l'indiquent, ne travaillent certes pas dans un but favorable à la Turquie. J'attends avec impatience la réponse que le Cabinet d'Athènes donnera aux nouvelles démarches de Lord Derby.

No. 83.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 6.*)

(No. 387.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 5, 1877, 11 P.M.*

THERE has been severe fighting for three days at Loftcha, the Russians attacking Osman Pasha's right wing with overwhelming force. According to information I receive from the Grand Vizier, Turks have been compelled to fall back, after inflicting great losses on Russians. Reinforcements have been sent from Plevna, and this battle is expected to recommence immediately. On the other hand, Turks claim a victory at Kadi-Keui yesterday, in which 1,000 Russians are stated to have been killed, and village burnt.

No. 84.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 7.*)

(No. 270. Political.)
My Lord, *Alexandria, August 30, 1877.*

PRINCE HUSSEIN PASHA, the Viceroy's second son, has returned from his tour among the islands of the Archipelago with his health much improved.

Her Majesty's ship "Research," Captain Hamilton Earle, has arrived in this port from port Said, and will remain here a few days.

The Egyptian transports and the troops for service in Turkey appear to be ready to start, but the Khedive assures me that he will not send them unless it is absolutely necessary or without apprizing me previously; it is possible that he is watching what Greece does, as he has told me, and I believe the Porte also, that if Greece declares war he is quite prepared to coerce her without its giving any trouble to Turkey; and he feels satisfied that Egypt could cope with Greece single-handed.

The abstraction of so much able-bodied labour from the country must be a very serious drain upon it, while the increased military expenditure is certainly not improving its financial condition.

The Nile is continuing to rise, and more satisfactorily, but great fears are entertained for the maize crop in Upper Egypt.

One hundred and forty-four Greek volunteers left on the 28th instant for Corfu by the Austrian Lloyd's steamer "Mars."

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

No. 85.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 7.*)

(No. 388.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 6, 1877, 10 P.M.*

COLONEL LENNOX telegraphs that Mehemet Ali Pasha yesterday carried the Russian fortified positions at Kazelevo after a severe engagement, and drove the enemy entirely across the Lom. The Turkish army is now encamped in the positions taken from the Russians. The enemy's loss is estimated at from 2,000 to 3,000 men; that of the Turks at about 700.

No. 86.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 7.*)

(No. 389.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 7, 1877, noon.*

CHARGÉ d'AFFAIRES at Athens has sent me copies of his telegrams to you of the 4th instant, but I shall make no communication to the Porte in reply to its questions, referred to in my telegram No. 383 of the 1st instant, until I receive your instructions. I fear that answers of Greek Government will be considered far from satisfactory. I hear confidentially that Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs hopes that the difficulties with Greece may be still avoided, but Grand Vizier is determined to take strong measures against her unless some guarantee is given that she will not attack Turkey.

No. 87.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 7.*)

(No. 390.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 7, 1877, 7·10 P.M.*

GREEK Government has, in a note, protested against the Circular of the Porte forbidding the passage of the Strait of Prevesa after sunset, and has declared that it considers it null and void. Copy of Circular was sent home by messenger in my despatch No. 33, Commercial, of the 27th ultimo.

No. 88.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 7.*)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Bucharest, September 7, 1877, 4·15 P.M.*

LOFTCHA captured by Russians on Monday, after twelve hours' hard fighting. Russians were 26,000 strong, Turks about 7,000. Plevna will be attacked in a few days. Russians have available on the spot 8½ infantry divisions, nearly 100,000 men, inclusive of the Roumanians. Siege artillery arriving before Plevna, and reserves are filling up blanks. Radetsky in Shipka Pass with 36 battalions. Russians pretend apprehension of Osman Pasha evacuating Plevna without awaiting attack, and it would appear to be his best policy to do so, as he risks the existence of the army by remaining.

Defensive line of the Czarevitch on the Russian east flank seriously indented. Emperor's head-quarters are at Kousmaluda.

No. 89.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 309.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 7, 1877.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 324 of the 28th ultimo, and I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government approve the note addressed by you on the 28th ultimo to Signor Melegari, inviting the co-operation of the Italian Government to prevent the commission by Servia of any act of aggression against Turkey

which would constitute a violation of engagements that have been entered into by Servia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 90.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 209. Confidential.)
Athens, August 27, 1877.
My Lord,

I AM informed that M. Tricoupi has addressed a somewhat indignant answer to the Ottoman Minister here, refuting the accusations which the latter had made against the Hellenic Government in two official notes, respecting the encounters which had recently occurred in the neighbourhood of the frontier.

M. Tricoupi expresses his conviction that no Greek band had crossed the frontier into Turkey, and believes that the affair near Tricala was between a Greek and a Mussulman village, in which brigands may have taken part.

The Greek troops at once arrested and imprisoned those who escaped into Greece, and restored the captured cattle to the Turks.

The Hellenic Government appears to be most anxious not to give any just cause of offence to Turkey at present; and unless the Porte wishes to provoke a quarrel between the two countries, the Turkish authorities would do well to inquire more carefully into the facts of any case before assuming that this Government has connived at incursions into Turkish territory, or committed acts of hostility upon the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

P.S.—I have communicated the above information to Mr. Layard.

W. S.

No. 91.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 211. Confidential.)
Athens, August 30, 1877.
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 193 of the 15th instant, respecting the rifles and cartridges which had been consigned to M. Leonidas Bulgaris, and presented to the Committee of National Defence, I have since learnt that, instead of having been purchased by the subscriptions of Greek residents in Russia, those arms and ammunition, which had been for some time past stored at Venice, were purchased by General Ignatiew, and sent by him to M. Leonidas Bulgaris.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 92.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 1021.)
Therapia, August 30, 1877.
My Lord,

WITH reference to Consul Biliotti's despatches Nos. 65 and 66 of the 23rd and 24th instant, I have the honour to state that I have spoken to Hobart Pasha on the subject of the pressure alleged to have been exercised by the Turkish authorities upon certain Mingrelian and other emigrants to compel them to leave their native country for the Turkish territories. Hobart Pasha, who for some time superintended the embarkation of the fugitives from Soukhoum Kaleh and other parts of the Circassian coast, denies that any such pressure was used. He states that the Mingrelians gave much trouble by first wishing to leave, and then changing their minds several times, and making conditions as regards the places to which they were to be taken, as to their separation into

tribes, &c. The removal of so many families, with their cattle and other property, was a source of great inconvenience and expense, and Hobart Pasha would have been very glad to leave as many as possible behind, as his ships, employed in embarking the insurgents, were urgently required elsewhere. It was only from motives of humanity, and to save the inhabitants of the districts which had risen in favour of the Turks from the vengeance of the Russians that, by express orders from the Sultan himself, they were removed.

Soukhoum Kaleh, Hobart Pasha tells me, will have to be held by Turkish troops until all the fugitives and an enormous quantity of cattle have been embarked, an operation which will take a very considerable time, and will require ships which could be engaged with far greater advantage in other services.

I have already spoken to the Grand Vizier, as I informed your Lordship in my despatch No. 994 of the 25th instant, about the Mingrelians at Trebizond who wished to return to their country, and his Highness at once expressed his desire that they should do so. I will take an early opportunity of again calling his attention to the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 93.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 1022. Confidential.)
Therapia, August 30, 1877.
My Lord,

I HAVE received notice from the Porte that orders have been given for the removal from the seats of war of three "Times" correspondents—Captain Gambier and Mr. Richard Coningsby from Roumelia, and Captain Norman from Armenia.

The grounds for this measure are that these gentlemen have been systematically hostile to the Turkish Government, and have misrepresented facts in order to excite public opinion in Europe against it; and that they have published information on military matters, and as to the Turkish forces, positions, and fortresses, which have been of great service to the enemy and have caused very grave injury to the Turks.

Mr. Robert Coningsby had already been ordered to leave Shumla, and although I thought, from facts that came to my knowledge, that his removal from that place by the Turkish authorities was justifiable, and I had found myself under the necessity of ordering him to leave the Embassy in consequence of his behaviour towards me, I spoke a word in his favour to the Porte, and he was allowed to go to Roumelia.

As regards Captain Gambier and Captain Norman, the Minister for Foreign Affairs states that he has received constant warnings as to the assistance they were giving to the Russians by sending to the "Times," for publication, the most minute accounts of the movements and numbers of the Turkish troops, and detailed descriptions of the Turkish positions and fortresses.

There can scarcely be a doubt that these warnings were well founded. Even the English press has expressed its surprise that the Turkish Government should have permitted information so detrimental to the success of its military operations, and so valuable to its enemy, to be sent from the seats of war; and that English officers, who had been treated with hospitality and confidence by the Turkish military authorities, should have so far abused the trust placed in them. I observe a remark to this effect in an able article on "The War in the East," in the July number of the "Quarterly Review."

The Porte is especially indignant with Captain Gambier, the "Times" naval correspondent in Roumelia, for offering money for the production of dead bodies. As Colonel Lennox has justly pointed out in his despatch inclosed in my No. 953 of the 18th instant, such proceedings cannot be too strongly condemned, as calculated to produce the atrocities for which their authors are in search. It may be confidently asserted that they would not be permitted in any other country in the world, and that a person who had recourse to them would expose himself to the severest penalties. But Englishmen in Turkey are under the impression that they have a right to do exactly what they please with the support and under the protection of Her Majesty's Government, and that the Turkish Government and authorities are to have no voice in the matter.

I directed Mr. Dragoman Mariniteh to represent to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the imprudence of irritating and rendering even more hostile to Turkey than it has hitherto been, so important and influential an organ of public opinion in

England as the "Times;" but the Porte seems determined to carry out its intention of removing from the seats of war Captain Gambier and Captain Norman.

It may, perhaps, permit Mr. Conings by to remain in Roumelia; but of this I am by no means certain, as it resents some accusations published by that gentleman against the Turkish authorities at Shumla, which they declare to be calumnious and unfounded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 94.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 1024.) *Therapia, August 31, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Consuls at Salonica and at Prevesa, respecting the state of affairs in Thessaly and Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 94.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, August 25, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the arrival yesterday of Her Majesty's frigate "Achilles," Captain Sir W. Hewett, and her departure this morning on her return to Besika Bay.

Having been asked by the Captain whether I thought there was any danger from outbreaks of fanaticism, I answered that conscientiously I could not advise his remaining here on any such account, as the city was perfectly quiet, and the Vali, an energetic man, has a sufficient number of regular troops, at present, for any emergency.

I have just received a report from Mr. Suter at Larissa, dated 22nd instant, who says, in reference to the cases of rifles and cartridges landed at Volo, mentioned in his last report, that about 500 percussion muskets (and not rifles) had been distributed to the Mahommedans, when the Greek Archbishop, Metropolitan, and priests petitioned the authorities on the part of the Christians to desist from giving out any more before communicating with Constantinople, which was agreed to; but, at the same time, drilling was going on every day.

Mr. Suter has no apprehension of disturbances in Thessaly, although cases of brigandage and individual outrage have, as usual, to be deplored. Bedree Bey and Bekir Bey, with Sheikh Aïi, of Velessim, have been sent to Constantinople to represent to the Government the necessity of placing Larissa in a better condition of defence to resist the expected invasion from Greece, which, however, seems to be by no means imminent, because in the same letter Mr. Suter informs me that seventy or eighty armed men landed at Aïo Cumpo, proceeded to the village of Thanato, and endeavoured to create an insurrection, but the villagers would not listen to their overtures, and on the arrival of some troops, they fled to the mountains, leaving 130 muskets and 55 boxes of ammunition.

Mr. Suter also reports that 300 horse and 1,200 irregulars were on their way to Larissa from Ochrida.

Here, independent of the large number of Bashi-Bazouks sent to Dédéagatch last week, and those who passed through Cavalla, we have now about 700 men who have come in, and will be sent on in a day or two by the two Turkish steam transports, which are waiting here to take them, as soon as the whole corps is complete. These men are raw levies, have no uniforms, and are merely furnished with arms; and a ragged lot they are!

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 94.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Prevesa, August 25, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that Abedir Bey, who I am informed has been sent hither from Constantinople to raise a body of irregular troops, reached Prevesa the other day, and will proceed to Janina to-morrow morning.

Large quantities of rifles and ammunition have, within the last few days, been despatched to Parga, Margaritti, and Salabora; and I hear from M. Kypriotis, that the authorities at Janina have been instructed to purchase 3,000 mules and horses for the troops in Thessaly and Epirus. He also informs me that a force of irregular cavalry has been applied for, 1,000 Circassians, and 1,000 Koords.

About 10,000 rifles were landed here last week by the two steamers, "Bekir," 4, Captain Hassan Bey, and "Fevaid," 5, Captain Saim Bey, besides a quantity of gunpowder and lead.

Last night at about 9 o'clock, the inhabitants of Prevesa were alarmed by the sound of guns proceeding from the direction of Salabora; and the utmost confusion prevailed amongst the authorities, both civil and military, who could not in any way account for this nightly discharge of guns. Night signals were made by all the blockhouses and forts, and the steamer was ordered to proceed to Salabora, but she did not proceed thither, as a telegram reached the authorities about half-an-hour afterwards, which explained to them that the guns were fired in honour of the Sultan's birthday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BLAKENEY.

No. 95.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 7, 1877, 10 P.M.*

THE idea of renewing the war is extremely unpopular in Servia. Russian Agents, highly dissatisfied at delay, pretend that some of the hesitation of the Ministry is due to the representations made by order of Her Majesty's Government. Greatest uncertainty prevails.

No. 96.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 8, 1877, 11 A.M.*

OFFICIAL telegram dated Gorny, Thursday, September 6, states as follows:—

"On 4th September Turks attempted attack on Lovatch; were repulsed. An attack same day on Maren, near Elena, likewise repulsed. On 5th September, Turks attacked Rustchuk corps along whole line; our troops at Kalslevo, after six hours' hard fighting, retired with severe loss on Ostritza. Our troops at Oblanovo held their positions on flank of our defence of Rustchuk corps. Turks made a movement on Kadikioi and Popkioi, not yet known whether intended as an attack or demonstration. In Balkans all quiet. Suleiman Pasha is reorganizing his army at Kysanlik. Our losses at Lofteha were 1,000 killed and wounded. Turkish losses heavier."

No. 97.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 8, 1877, 2 P.M.*

PRINCE TSERETELEW'S mission concluded. He leaves for Imperial headquarters to-night. Servia is to become Russian ally unconditionally; will require, however, subsidies; an order to mobilize is expected for next week, but even if issued

will by no means be tantamount to fitness to commence war, which must, however, begin if Russia insists.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 98.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, September* 8, 1877, 4 P.M.

COLONEL WELLESLEY wishes me to forward following, dated Tchaous Mahala, September 6:—

"Attack on Plevna will probably be commenced to-morrow with overwhelming artillery fire. Combined Russian and Roumanian forces amount to about 100,000 men, with 400 guns. Turkish force estimated at 50,000. Assault will probably be made following daybreak.

"It is supposed that Emperor of Russia will watch engagement from neighbouring hill."

No. 99.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 9.)

(No. 391.) (Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 8, 1877, 9 P.M.

OSMAN PASHA informs Porte that he does not attach any importance to the occupation of Loftcha by the Russians, and feels quite confident of being able to resist any attack on Plevna. No further news from Shipka.

No. 100.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 10.)

(No. 121. Political.) *Belgrade, August* 18, 1877.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 118 of the 16th August I had the honour to mention that there was still no regular Representative of the Russian Government at Belgrade.

I have now the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Persiani, hitherto First Secretary of Legation at Athens, has just been appointed Russian Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General in Servia.

M. Persiani has, I believe, for many years been connected with the Imperial Mission in Greece, where his father had represented Russia formerly, and where he himself married.

It is believed here that Greece is actively preparing for war; and this appointment augurs ill for the preservation of peace by the Prince of Servia.

The friends of this Government, who have hitherto obstinately denied the preparations actually going on as portending a fresh aggression on Turkey, now speak of war as highly probable.

The Russian General Fadeieff expected again here.

The great difficulty consists for the war party in raising the necessary funds, as, though a sanguine expectation of a Russian subsidy existed at Belgrade, there is no evidence whatever that the negotiations on the subject, which it is supposed are going on, will attain any definite result till the arrival of the new Russian Representative here, and the assistance lately received from the Russo-Slav Committees appears totally inadequate for resuming hostilities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 101.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 10.)

(No. 123. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 20, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that it is believed at Belgrade that the objections hitherto supposed to be entertained by the Austro-Hungarian Government with regard to Servia engaging in hostilities with Turkey are no longer in full force, except in so far as no invasion of Bosnian territory would be tolerated by the Cabinet of Vienna.

The financial difficulty is still in full force here, and there is no means of overcoming it, except by a foreign loan guaranteed either directly or indirectly by Russia or by regular subsidies from that country.

The Servian people are too reluctant to renew the war to allow of their being called upon to make fresh pecuniary sacrifices for such an object.

Hitherto M. Ristitch, the Foreign Minister here, used to be very positive in denying Servia's intention to renew the war, but I found him less reassuring yesterday; he admits that Austria appears indifferent now and that the Principality finds itself on a declivity ("sur une pente").

The language of the Servian Foreign Minister continues to be what may be called pacific, as he denies any intention to renew the war at present, but, whilst he asserts that no determination of that kind has been adopted by him as yet, he no longer denies that circumstances may induce his Government to reopen the whole question, and on that account I consider his present language as less reassuring.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 102.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 10.)

(No. 125. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 22, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that superior officers have been selected to hold different commands in Servia. It was also rumoured that a promotion was to be effected to-day amongst the officers of the army, this being the Prince's birthday, but it appears that no effect has as yet been given to this intention if it really exists.

I am likewise assured that Prince Milan has declined the offer of General Fadeieff to take service here, and it is evident that there is some hesitation yet as to the course that Servia will adopt at this moment.

M. Hitrovo, who was lately Russian Consul-General at Constantinople, and who is attached to the Grand Duke Nicholas, the Commander-in-chief of the army in Europe, arrived here two days ago, evidently on a special mission, which is described by himself as consisting in a mission of courtesy from His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke to the Prince of Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 103.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 10.)

(No. 126. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 22, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the substance of a conversation I had with M. Ristitch, the Servian Foreign Minister, on Sunday last.

M. Ristitch alluded to some communications which have passed at Constantinople between M. Christitch, the Servian Agent there, and the Turkish Foreign Minister, and which have been since related in a despatch of Her Majesty's Ambassador with the Porte,

and he went on to assure me that the military preparations now going on were not such as to portend the resumption of immediate hostilities, and added, in his usual way, some words to defend the preparations, as if these were rendered necessary by the war going on in Bulgaria.

I denied their necessity, and in the course of my argument I remarked that the Principality was less passive now than it had been immediately after Prince Milan's return from Ploiesti, and I added, "Avouez que vous vous trouvez sur une pente." This the Minister admitted, and gave me the impression that Russian views with regard to Servian neutrality had been modified since.

He did not actually say so, but he left no doubt on my mind that this was the occasion of the preparations now going on here. He then went on to say that Austria, which appeared till lately so desirous to prevent Servia from taking a part in this war, had gradually appeared less interested and more indifferent to the course Prince Milan might ultimately adopt, though no determination, he assured me, had yet been taken by His Highness or his Government.

This gave me the desired opportunity, and I at once spoke to M. Ristitch in very strong terms, and I told him that his country reminded me of a man who wanted to commit suicide, and was once prevented from effecting this object through the interposition of powerful friends.

This being so these friends might look on quietly next time he was about to make a similar attempt, but though they might appear indifferent at first they would certainly not do anything later to save him from the consequences of his own repeated acts, and that these consequences might be most disastrous to Servia.

M. Ristitch hereupon observed that it was not likely that the war could end in an increase of Servian autonomy.

To this I said that I was not prepared to discuss with him the probable results of this war; but as a friend to his country I could not conceal from him my private opinion that nothing could be more fatal and disastrous for the future of the Principality than the conviction amongst neutral Powers, which would be sure to follow on a repetition of the aggression of last year, that Servia was a perpetual disturber of the peace, and a too willing instrument in the hands of an ambitious Power.

Were such an impression to be confirmed by fresh acts, it would naturally follow that arrangements, by no means corresponding to the hopes of M. Ristitch, would be favourably view by the Great Powers of Europe, and though Austria might appear indifferent now, she certainly would not do so when the terms of peace would come to be considered.

Three months ago I had the honour to express to your Lordship my apprehensions with regard to Servia's attitude, that despatch has I see been laid before Parliament (No. 28 in "Correspondence on Turkey No. 26"), and after the lapse of three months the situation is again what it was at that time, with this difference, that what Prince Milan only hoped then, he now believes, *i.e.*, that Austria will not take any action should he take a part in the struggle in deference to the suggestions made to him from other quarters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 104.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 10.)

(No. 127. Political.)
Belgrade, August 23, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the visit of M. Hitrovo here, as reported in my despatch No. 125, Political, I beg to report that that gentleman explained to some influential persons that the object of his mission here was one from the Grand Duke Nicholas, and that Russia had no intention of either pushing the Servians into war or of restraining them, "nous ne voulons ni les pousser ni les retenir."

To myself that gentleman did not allude to his mission at all, so that I have this only at second hand.

When Prince Milan saw the Emperor last, His Majesty and Prince Gortchakow urged His Highness to keep quiet out of deference to Austria. This motive for inaction appears, therefore, to be abandoned.

Nothing positive has transpired further with regard to M. Hitrovo's mission; but

there can be little doubt that some secret negotiations are going on on the subject of Servia's future action.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 105.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 10.)

(No. 128. Political.)
My Lord,
Belgrade, August 23, 1877.

THE situation of this Principality is so very peculiar at the present moment that it is extremely difficult, nay, almost impossible, to form a proper estimate of the motives which are prompting M. Ristitch to throw himself at this juncture into the arms of Russia, and to make the interests of his own country subservient to those of that military and ambitious Power.

M. Ristitch himself has never been a favourite with the Court of St. Petersburgh, but his innate desire to accomplish some great scheme may have gained him over to Russian views during his visit to Ploiesti, where he suddenly became the object of Imperial favour.

Moreover the position of Prince Milan and that of M. Ristitch and his associates is by no means secure in Servia; the general voice of the people condemns both the way in which the late war was brought about and conducted, and any secret design of renewing it.

The extraordinary general assembly (Skoupstchina) in February last voted unanimously in favour of peace, and even in the last session the Government did not presume to avow their intention to plunge their country again into the perils from which it emerged by a timely armistice in November, 1876.

Indeed it is asserted that the general abhorrence to a new war is so great amongst the people of Servia that some people here think that if a bold leader were to arise and raise the standard of open resistance to any sudden resolution of renewing hostilities by the Prince and his Ministers, he might depend on a large following.

I will not venture for my part to give any opinion as to the chances of any active resistance to a war, as in the absence of any recognized leader or of any organized opposition, it may be presumed that in a country like this the executive, after proclaiming martial law, has the power, when it has the will, of enforcing everything necessary to carry on a war, however unpopular, unless a general spirit of mutiny and insubordination were to break out.

The fact is that Prince Milan considers that his own personal future, as well as that of his country, is in the hands of the Czar; and that it is from him alone that he can expect an increase of territory at the peace, and a recognition of independence for the Principality.

I have omitted no opportunity to impress on M. Ristich and on the leading public men here that it is most unlikely that the other Powers, and more especially Austria, should allow of any changes at the peace which would give to Servia a position in which Russian influence would take root permanently.

I am personally inclined to the belief that the Cabinet of Vienna will not raise any serious objections to recognize the independence of Servia; but if it does this, and if the European guarantee secured by the Treaty of Paris be withdrawn, Austria must, for the protection of her own Slav interests, seek to establish a permanent influence which would secure her against the exercise of Russian proclivities and tendencies in her immediate neighbourhood, either through the future Sovereign or by means of Slav Committees.

The very renewal of the war under Russian guidance is such a bad omen for any independent feeling or interest in the future State that it is impossible to suppose that Austro-Hungarian Statesmen should have willingly consented to remain passive spectators of such an action, unless they cherished some secret plans to counteract, at some later period, the injury which Hungary must suffer from the consolidation of Russian influence in her immediate vicinity, amongst a people so nearly akin to some of her own subject races.

M. Ristitch is certainly a man far too full of penetration and foresight that any of these considerations should have escaped his attention; if he were in opposition, probably no Servian public man would dare, through fear of being exposed by him, follow the

policy which he is pursuing; but, unfortunately, M. Ristich is in power, he is responsible to a great extent for the late war, and he would like to condone that offence, for which his own people hold him answerable, by securing advantages for his country which he thinks cannot be obtained except by co-operation with the armies of the Czar; and both Prince Milan, who is now a decided Russian sympathizer, and M. Ristitch, who is far less so, have an overweening confidence in the ultimate triumph of Russia in the present war, and wish to act so as to ensure the good graces of the Emperor.

To his intimate friends M. Ristitch holds the following language:—

We are on the eve of considerable changes on the Danube and the Save in consequence of the Russian invasion. Montenegro will obtain an accession of territory, and Bosnia will henceforth be under Austrian influence; Bulgaria is sure to become almost independent under a Russian protectorate, whilst Roumanian independence is only waiting for a formal recognition. What is to be the fate of Servia? No Power, least of all Austria-Hungary, will be disposed to reward us for our neutrality, whilst the Czar promises to secure to us the districts of old Servia and the recognition of independence as the price of our active assistance. If we forfeit his sympathy and that of the Slav Committees, we are doomed to come out of this crisis as a lifeless body politic, destined sooner or later to see its distinct political existence blown out by the pushing vitality of the new Slav States, which Servia proper will then have as her neighbours.

Some of these considerations are not altogether concealed by M. Ristich when talking to the Agents of foreign Governments residing here, but he is always careful to add that, in the uncertainty which still prevails as to the immediate military events, he has not yet determined upon any definite plan of action for his country, and that though he does not deny the preparations going on, these need not be followed by war, which there is no intention to initiate as yet, as he intends being guided by political and military considerations, about the nature of which he remains silent, but which may be easily conjectured.

So long as the Cabinet of Vienna objected to any participation by Servia in war, it was clear that the action of the Principality was restrained within very narrow limits, but the moment that Count Andrassy's veto appears waived, and that the Emperor of Russia invites Servia to co-operate with his armies, it is clear that a new element is imported consciously into the contest, which Austria alone might have easily prevented, and which cannot fail to add fresh claims and difficulties whenever a pacific settlement will have to follow the present war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 106.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 130. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 24, 1877.*

IN my despatch No. 126 of the 22nd instant, I had the honour to report to your Lordship a very serious conversation I had with M. Ristitch at my house on Sunday last on the subject of the intention of his Government to co-operate with Russia against the Porte by resuming active hostilities.

Having had the honour to receive since your Lordship's telegraphic instructions dated the 23rd instant, I shall not fail to renew that conversation, and to impart to M. Ristitch the views of Her Majesty's Government on the subject of the perilous course his country is about to adopt, and speaking to him this time more fully and with still greater force, not my own opinion any more, but on your Lordship's behalf.

I cannot conceal, however, from your Lordship that, owing to the powerful influence brought to bear on Prince Milan and M. Ristitch by various agents of Russia, and to the inexplicable silence of Austria, I am by no means sanguine that any observations I may be authorized to make to this Government, however direct, are likely to deter Servia from co-operating with Russia in the present war if the Emperor consents to an alliance by means of a Convention and of pecuniary subsidies, which Prince Milan appears to look upon as indispensable to enable him to participate in this war.

There is a deeply rooted belief here that the Russian arms will ultimately prevail,

and that the concert of the three Emperors is greater than ever; and this confidence paralyzes the influence of the Western Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 107.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 132. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 25, 1877.*

IN compliance with your Lordship's telegraphic instructions of the 23rd instant, received yesterday, I had an interview with M. Ristitch this morning, and communicated through him to the Prince and the Administration the views of Her Majesty's Government, as conveyed in your Lordship's telegram.

A Cabinet Council was called together this afternoon to take into consideration the observations which it was my duty to make to this Government, but nothing which I have heard leads me to hope that anything can be done (except perhaps by Austria) to prevent Servia from following the steep incline on which Prince Milan has entered, of which I spoke to M. Ristitch in my previous conversation with him on the 19th instant.

Even the reverses of the Russian army a month ago at Plevna have not shaken the confidence existing here that the Imperial army is about to accomplish the disruption of a portion of European Turkey, and that some secret understanding between the three Emperors will secure to Servia some small benefit in the spoils and protect her from this fresh breach of faith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 108.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 133. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 25, 1877.*

AT the commencement of the war between Russia and Turkey, Prince Milan sent Colonel Catardgi to Kishoneff, offering his co-operation; this was refused by the Emperor, out of deference to Austria.

This refusal, out of similar considerations, was repeated to the Prince during his Highness' visit to Ploiesti; but though unknown at the time, it now appears that the Emperor, quite unlike the language held by his Chancellor, led the Prince to expect that his co-operation might be required ere long.

A week ago a telegram arrived here from the Emperor, calling upon the Prince to prepare himself for war before the end of the month. The reply that was sent is not known; but it probably stated that the notice was too short, and applied for a subsidy as indispensable.

The Foreign Minister, M. Ristitch, says that no determination has been taken as yet; but for my part I have no doubt as to the issue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 109.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 135. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 27, 1877.*

IN compliance with your Lorship's telegraphic instructions of the 23rd instant, I called on M. Ristitch two days ago and repeated to him the representations which your Lordship instructed me to make to this Government on behalf of Her Majesty's Govern-

ment, and of which he took a memorandum, but in reply he only gave me a vague promise that full consideration would be given to these observations.

Anyone who sees what has been going on here since the commencement of the Russo-Turkish war, and has noticed the nature of the relations established since between Prince Milan and the Sovereign of an Empire carrying on war against the Sultan, must come to the conclusion that Servia is more like *a de facto* Russian province than like a vassal State of the Porte.

Whilst, therefore, Austria raises no objection, those made by other more distant Powers are left unheeded.

Yesterday a Russian Agent brought here 1,000,000 roubles in specie. This Agent is Prince Tzereteley, the same who was second Secretary of Embassy at Constantinople, and who accompanied General Ignatiew to London in March last.

Other preparations for war are going on, and it is thought that hostilities may commence in another fortnight, even though a regular Convention were not concluded for the purpose with the Russian Government.

The publication of a Decree to mobilize the militia is expected daily.

In my humble opinion the Porte would be justified if the Grand Vizier were to address an ultimatum to the Prince of Servia, and to follow it by the adoption of defensive military measures.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 110.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 10.)

(No. 137. Political.)

Belgrade, August 29, 1877.

My Lord,

IN my previous despatches I have had the honour to explain that both the personal inclinations of Prince Milan and the engagements he has contracted towards the Emperor of Russia urge this Highness to immediate co-operation with the armies of that Power, especially since he has been invited by successive special Agents dispatched to Belgrade to put his militia in readiness and to march at once.

Some of the superior officers who have been called here to attend a military council, and several of the Ministers, are of opinion, however, that the country is too badly prepared for war, and are urging the necessity of further delay; these are of opinion that the Government ought to have the certainty that it will have a sufficient supply of cash, not only to pay in money for all requisitions, but also to repay all those taken during the previous war, which are still unpaid for.

The mobilization of the militia has not been ordered yet, and it is evident that matters are not sufficiently forward yet to commence hostilities, and this is mainly ascribed to the above cause, and to the fact that the negotiations going on with the Russian Cabinet have not reached, as yet, a definite solution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 111.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 10.)

(No. 139. Political.)

Belgrade, September 1, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying preliminary report on the state of the Servian army drawn up by Mr. Vice-Consul Marshall.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 111.

Report by Lieutenant Marshall on the Present State of the Servian Army.

SINCE the conclusion of peace with Turkey the Servian Government has been doing its utmost to repair last year's waste and to increase the efficiency of the army. With this end in view, the country has been redivided into four military commands, which, in their turn, are subdivided into eighteen military districts.

Standing Army.—In the place of the four battalions of regular infantry, which, with the three Belgrade squadrons, composed the entire active army up to last year, they have now got about twenty battalions, which have been drilled for the last three months, and are probably composed of what remains over from the old four battalions of last year, the whole of this year's conscripts, and some lads taken before their time.

National Army.—The organization of the national army remains unchanged since commencement of the year, and the first ban have had about a month's training.

The events of the last few days leave hardly any doubt that Servia intends to recommence hostilities, a gross breach of faith, about which the least is said the better.

A Council of War has been held, and the "ordre de bataille" has been printed but not issued. By this it appears that the force Servia means to call to arms amounts to 80,000 men, composed of regulars and the first ban of the militia, which two bodies will be amalgamated and will form 100 battalions, each of 200 regulars and 600 militiamen. The squadrons of cavalry number 100 to 140 men.

Four corps d'armée will be formed, corresponding with the military commands, of which, however, only one, that of the Schoumadia, will act on the offensive, the remaining three having the duty assigned them of watching the frontier and occupying certain positions in the interior.

At the end of last year Servia possessed 80 battalions of militia (active army) besides the four battalions of regulars and foreign volunteers. These are distributed according to the following Table:—

STATE of the Servian Army, showing the Strength each Corps will have after Amalgamation.

Corps.	Brigades.	Battalions.	Commander.	Probable Head-quarters.	Battalions of Militia.	Guns.	Squadrons of Cavalry.	Remarks.
I. Drina	1. Schabac 2. Podrina 3. Valjevo 4. Uzvis	5 3 5 6	Nicolic or Olympic	Schabac	19	30 field 18 mountain	6	This corps will be made up to 20,000 men on amalgamation.
II. Schoumadia	1. Belgrade 2. Kraujievac 3. Rudnik 4. Semendria	5 6 3 4	Protic (Probably the Prince Milan after 12th Sept.)	Belgrade	19	48 field	8	This is the corps for offensive operations; it will, on amalgamation, have 32 battalions of infantry, and a total strength of 40,000.
III. Morava	1. Cicsak 2. Krupcsac 3. Jagodina 4. Leposj 5. Alexinatz	5 5 4 3 3	Horvatovics	Kragujevac or Gindova (Feth Islam)	20	48 field 12 mountain	4	These two corps will only furnish 20,000 men between them since amalgamation. There are, in addition, some guns of position mounted at Belgrad and between Cuprija and Paracin.
IV. Timok	1. Knijevatz 2. Cerna Reka 3. Kraina 4. Pirot 5. Brânitzevo	4 4 5 3 5			23	48 field 12 mountain	4	

N.B.—This statement does not pretend to perfect accuracy, but it is sufficiently so to afford a good idea of the relative strength and composition of the corps.

Engineers.—Each corps has also one battalion of engineers, and the necessary complement of auxiliary services.

Reserve Corps.—The men of the 2nd ban of the Militia will form a reserve corps; head-quarters, Kragujevac.

Physique.—The physique of the men is on an average inferior. This is probably owing to the fact that conscripts are only medically examined at their own request, and that the certificates of age are not closely scrutinized.

Horses.—The horses are under-sized, and even now look overworked and half starved. Those of the cavalry, being the men's own property, are of all sizes and colours. There is a great deficiency in numbers at present, and the Servians are trying to smuggle some 1,200 horses from Hungary (probably across the Transylvanian frontier, into Roumania, and over the Danube, about Kladova). This will, however, prove no easy matter, as we have lately had proofs here of the strictness of their surveillance.

Infantry Arms.—The infantry of the Schoumadia corps (corps for offensive operations) is armed with converted Peabody rifles.

The remaining corps are armed with rifles of various patterns and smooth-bore muskets, converted on the Peabody system. All look roughly made, and the practice I saw was execrable.

The bayonets are always carried fixed, and the rifles are generally so rusty that it is a question whether they could be removed.

Arms of Cavalry.—The Militia cavalry are armed with the sword, and the three squadrons of cavalry at Belgrade carry a revolver in addition.

Arms of Artillery.—The artillery consists of bronze 8-pounder field and 4-pounder mountain guns, distributed as per foregoing table, and in addition there are—

A siege train, consisting of 4 guns "de 12;" 12 mortars (rifled) "de 12;" 6 howitzers of 13 centim.; 6 mountain howitzers, 4-pounders (rifled). Also a certain number of guns of position "de 12," and 1 field-battery of Krupps.

I hear from good authority that the grooves of the rifling are in many cases much worn by last year's work.

The guns appear rather short, and the carriages, though neatly made, look hardly adapted to the mountain work they are intended for.

Each battery consists of 6 guns and 6 waggons, and in those I have seen, the horses all had collars. The guns are horsed with 6 horses, all of which carry men, and the remaining two men of the detachments are carried on the limbers.

Instruction of Officers.—Sufficient attention does not appear to be paid to the instruction of officers. The military school here is said to possess good instructors, and still, on an average, only some thirty officers pass the final examination annually. Consequently, when the army takes the field, there are frequently only two trained officers per battalion, the remainder being raw peasants.

Strange to say, they also commit the blunder of allowing such men to command trained officers if they happen to hold an inferior grade.

To this broad rule the artillery forms a notable exception, in fact this arm is allowed to swallow up nearly all the trained officers, to the detriment of the remainder. The gunners are recruited at Belgrade and Kragujevac, where there are stores of material.

The last campaign showed many instances in which the artillery went boldly to the front, right into the line of skirmishers, and helped to sustain the *morale* of the rest.

Administration.—A great shirking responsibility is noticeable in all grades and departments, complaints of the most frivolous kind and trifling matters being brought to the "heads of departments" to be rectified.

Appearance and Drill of various Arms.—Considering the short time the infantry battalions of the standing army have been under instruction their appearance is creditable, and their simple evolutions are performed with a moderate degree of accuracy.

The militia, which have been out for a month, certainly do not appear fit to be sent to the front. It was mentioned before that the rifle practice was very bad. A great improvement would no doubt result if competitions with prizes were established on some of the numerous holidays at the district head-quarters, where the 2nd ban are already forced to attend by law for drill.

The artillery manœuvre well, and keep their distances very accurately, but the pace (for the batteries should from their calibre and equipment count as horse artillery) is slow in the extreme. Commands are given with the sword.

The cavalry at Belgrade, which is probably superior to the militia cavalry, certainly does not look promising, the simplest evolution turns the whole into a flock of sheep, and they have no idea of distance or dressing. Scouting and patrolling are hardly known, and in any case were most inefficiently carried out last year.

Train.—The train is furnished gratis by the peasants, each man keeping himself and his cattle, and going six days' march from his home with his load. The country carts are small, and generally drawn by oxen. Some idea of the excessive length of the trains, and of the consequent delay imposed on the movements of the army may be gathered from the fact that 130 carts are required for each battalion of infantry, or some 28,000 for the whole army.

There are the necessary complements of the auxiliary services with each corps, which are said to be in an efficient state, particularly as regards the military telegraph.

Medical Department.—The hospital service has made great progress since last year. There are now to be 24 field hospitals of 200 beds each with the Schoumadia corps. There are also 36 "brancardiers" per brigade, in addition to 36 for each division, and 36 for the corps.

Field Hospitals.—Nine field hospitals (principally marquees from Paris) will be set up in the first place at Jovanovatz, Cuprija, and Deligrad, which is a fact worthy of notice, as it denotes the probable line the Schoumadia Corps will advance by.

A great many hospital stores and medical comforts were left here by the foreign ambulances.

Reserve Hospitals.—Reserve hospitals are prepared here and at Kragujevac.

The transport of the wounded to the field hospitals will be by bullock carts, as before.

Army Surgeons.—The Servian doctors are, as a rule, no good, as there is no Medical School, and all foreigners, except Slavs of other countries, take a long time in acquiring the language.

Intrenched Positions.—There are defensive positions, with field-works, constructed last winter by pressed labour (the peasants, generally, are handy at such work, from their practice in mending the commune roads and bridges), at Brza Palanka, commanding the road from Negotin, also between Paracin, Cuprija, and Alexinatz. Negotin is surrounded by intrenchments, and there are defensive works still remaining, though greatly out of order, on the positions round Zaicar. The works, as far as I could judge from personal inspection, are generally well placed and constructed, but in no case of formidable profile.

It is a moot point whether the system of pressed labour has not, in some cases, induced the commanders to construct lines too extensive for their forces to hold.

Concluding Remarks.—An army thus trained, officered, and organized, might do something in defence of its own country, but to send such a force against a trained army like the Turkish, can only result in a speedy dissolution of its badly connected particles.

Though no doubt the Russian criticism on the Servian army was unnecessarily severe, considering the state in which the men were sent to the front, yet surely Servia should take her lesson to heart, and not repeat the blunder of sending out an army whose officers do not know their men, nor the latter their officers, or even one another. Instead of the leaven of trained men improving the militia, it appears to me far more probable that the want of discipline of the latter under fire will affect the half-trained regulars, and then all will decamp together.

In conclusion, a word about the generals. The man who distinguished himself last year *par excellence*, was certainly Colonel Horvatovicz. Why he should not have been given the command of the Schoumadia corps instead of the empty honour of two others, when it is doubtful if they will be called on to act, is a riddle which can only be explained on the supposition that he is an object of jealousy and distrust, owing to his Austro-Serb extraction.

Belgrade, September 1, 1877.

No. 112.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 701. Confidential.)

Vienna, August 24, 1877.

My Lord,

THE public journals having stated that the Austro-Hungarian Government had joined that of Germany and some other Powers in addressing representations to the Porte against alleged violations by the Turkish army of the Geneva Convention, Count Andrassy explained to me to-day that he had been induced to do so, as it had been shown that no Russian prisoners have been made during the war, there being only three, as yet, in the hands of the Turks, who were saved from a torpedo-boat.

It seemed to be evident, therefore, his Excellency said, that the Russian wounded left on the field are always slaughtered, and that no quarter is given by the Turkish soldiers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 113.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 704. Confidential.)

Vienna, August 28, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE called upon Count Andrassy, and acquainted him, confidentially, with the substance of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, communicating to me an instruction which you had addressed to Mr. Consul-General White, on the subject of the expected declaration by Servia of war against Turkey.

His Excellency said that the language which Mr. White is to hold is entirely justified by facts, and that he will be glad if the representations of Her Majesty's Government prove successful, though he fears the 1,000,000 roubles received from Russia will have greater influence with the Government of the Principality. He observed that Servia had been frequently made acquainted with the objections of Austria-Hungary to her renewing hostilities with the Porte, and that he could not now join in the representations of Her Majesty's Government without being prepared to support them by force; and when Austria-Hungary objected to Russia sending her troops through the Principality, she engaged, at the same time, not to occupy it herself, unless it should occasion disturbances on the frontier of the Monarchy.

His Excellency is, however, still confident, notwithstanding the alleged subsidy of 1,000,000 roubles, that unless Russia gains a signal victory, no Servian troops will cross the frontier if the Porte remains quiet and does not send a force into the country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 114.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 712. Confidential.)

Vienna, September 1, 1877.

My Lord,

THIS being the day on which Baron Calice is appointed to receive members of the Diplomatic Body calling on the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, I spoke to him of the telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of Servia's intention to declare war to Turkey, which was communicated to me yesterday by your Lordship.

Baron Calice did not admit that the Porte has held language to the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople alleging that Austria had given assurances that she would not permit Servia to attack Turkey; but he did not deny that Count Zichy's attention had been called to the subject, and that he had reported the anxiety felt by the Porte with respect to it. He said that no answer had been yet sent to Count Zichy's telegrams, but, with respect to the position of Austria in the question, he will probably be referred to the instructions he received when the Government of the Emperor objected to the belligerents extending the operations of the war to Servia, as he will find in them that, though at that time Count Andrassy expressed a belief that the Servian Government had no intentions to take part in the war, his Excellency had never undertaken to prevent them from doing so.

My own reports to your Lordship of what occurred at that time appear to support this view of the case.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 115.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 713. Confidential.)

Vienna, September 6, 1877.

My Lord,

A REPORT has been in circulation among some persons here, which may probably reach England, that Austria has given a promise to Germany that, in the event of the Russian army being obliged to recross the Danube, she will protect its retreat.

This may mean, if the report has any foundation, that Austria, with a view to her own interests, will not permit Turkish troops to occupy Roumania.

On my mentioning the subject yesterday at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, surprise was expressed that anyone should suspect Austria of the Quixotic intention attributed to her.

A Vienna journal, however, within the last few days, speaks of Russia having a golden bridge in the alliance of the three Emperors for effecting a peaceful retreat from her present difficulties.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN

No. 116.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 221. Political. Confidential.)

Bucharest, August 28, 1877.

My Lord,

I BEG to report to your Lordship that a very large portion, if not the whole, of the Roumanian army has crossed the Danube at Corabia, and is occupying positions to the left rear of Osman Pasha's force at Plevna.

The Roumanian army is under the personal command of Prince Charles, who is to act in combination with the Russian forces, but retains a separate and individual command.

The Roumanian divisions south of Nicopoli remain for the moment under the orders of General Latoff; but, should the plan of operations permit, will, at a later date, be united to the bulk of the Roumanian army under the command of the Prince.

The Moldo-Wallachian forces south of Nicopoli, and the contingent under Prince Charles, are together estimated at 43,000 men of all arms; but the figure is probably susceptible of considerable diminution.

It is reported to me that the Russian Government and Commander-in-chief have entered into no alliance or engagement whatsoever with this Government, and that there has merely been a verbal arrangement as regards the co-operation of the Roumanians, accompanied by a subsidy of 3,000,000 fr. (120,000*l.*), a sum which will not go far towards supplying a force of 40,000 men with transport and every description of military requisite.

The Roumanian army on crossing the Danube was provided with but four days' provisions!

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 117.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 215.)

Athens, September 1, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, on the 28th ultimo, Mr. Binney, Her Majesty's Consul at Syra, reported to Her Majesty's Legation the arrival at that port in sailing vessels from Constantinople of 200 volunteers for the Greek army, and to-day's newspaper, the "Ephimeris," announces the arrival at the Piræus of a number of volunteers from abroad, who are probably the same mentioned by Mr. Binney.

By a Royal Decree dated 30th ultimo, Major-General Scarlatto Soutzo, who was Minister for War in 1870, has been appointed Commander-in-chief of the troops in Continental Greece.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 118.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 332.)
Siena, September 6, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 324 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose a translation of a note which I have received from the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in reply to the Confidential note which I addressed to his Excellency, acquainting him with the substance of the instructions sent to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Belgrade, with a view to his endeavouring to dissuade the Servian Government from recommencing the war with Turkey.

M. Melegari, after recapitulating the substance of my communication, and expressing his thanks for it, acknowledges that the Italian Government is most anxious that the present war should be confined within the narrowest possible limits, and that, with this object in view, they have already advised the Servian Government, and will continue to do so, to ponder well the serious consequences which might result to the Principalities from taking part in the war, but as these counsels have been dictated more by a feeling of sympathy and benevolence towards Servia than from any other considerations, his Excellency adds that it appears to him it would be premature for the Italian Government to bind themselves at this moment as to their conduct when the moment shall have arrived for regulating the consequences of this war, for it is to be foreseen that the resolutions which will then be adopted by the respective Governments will be indicated to them more by a care for the safety of their own particular interests, and by those which are common to all the Powers, than by the present conduct of the Servian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 118.

Signor Melegari to Sir A. Paget.

(Translation.)
Rome, September 3, 1877.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

I HAVE received the note which your Excellency did me the honour to address to me from Siena on the 28th August. I learn therefrom that Lord Derby has caused the Government of Servia to be informed of the great concern which the British Cabinet would feel at the recommencement of hostilities between Servia and Turkey. In recording the part which England has had in the re-establishment of peace between the Principality and the Porte, Lord Derby has caused a declaration to be made at Belgrade that the Government of the Queen would consider the recommencement of hostilities as a violation, quite unprovoked, of the engagements entered into by Servia, not only towards the Porte, but also towards Great Britain, which would render it impossible for the British Government to support the demands of the Principality in any discussion which might take place at the conclusion of the present war.

I beg your Excellency to express to Lord Derby my thanks for this communication. Your Excellency is right in remembering that the Italian Government is ready to join its action with that of any other in keeping the war within the smallest possible limits. And it is in this sense that we have hitherto declared ourselves, that we shall continue to do so at Belgrade, where lately and shortly before the Agent of Her Britannic Majesty made the communication above referred to, we had caused repeated recommendations to be made that the Servian Government should consider well the consequences which, under various aspects, its participation in the present war would entail. But as this advice was suggested to the Italian Government more by the sympathy and the benevolence which have marked the character of their relations with the Servian Government than by considerations of another kind, so I consider that it would be premature for Italy at this moment to tie down her action for the time, in which the consequences of the present war will be defined; because one can already foresee that the decisions which then will be adopted by the respective Governments will be indicated to them by the care which they will take for the safety of their own particular interests, and for the determining of those which are common to all the Powers, more than by the present behaviour of the Servian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MELEGARI.

No. 119.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 349. Confidential.)
Berlin, September 8, 1877.

My Lord,

M. DE BULOW informs me that the German Government have studiously avoided offering advice to the Servian Government with regard to the hostile attitude lately assumed by that Principality towards the Porte.

On the other hand, I have received reliable information that it is at the special request of the Emperor of Germany that the Austrian Government have abstained from using its influence with the Servian Government to dissuade it from renewing hostilities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 120.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September 10.)

(Télégraphique.)
Constantinople, le 9 Septembre, 1877.

JE vous transmets ci-après pour votre information deux télégrammes que je reçois d'Athènes et de Berlin :—

Télégramme de Photiades Bey :—

" J'apprends de source certaine que, sur l'ordre de son Gouvernement, mon collègue d'Angleterre a interpellé le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Grèce sur les deux points suivants :—

"1. Si par les armements extraordinaires qu'elle poursuit la Grèce se propose un but agressif contre la Turquie.

"2. Si, tout en s'abstenant d'une guerre déclarée, elle a l'intention de provoquer les soulèvements dans les provinces limitrophes de l'Empire.

"Répondant à ces deux questions, M. Tricoupi a cherché à justifier les armements de la Grèce par la nécessité de la situation générale, et s'est borné à dire que, sans prendre aucun engagement qui pourrait enchaîner la liberté d'action de son Gouvernement dans des éventualités imprévues, il était en mesure d'assurer au Gouvernement Britannique que la Grèce ne médite aucun projet hostile à la Turquie, mais qu'elle désire au contraire entretenir de bons rapports avec son voisin."

Télégramme de Sadoullah Bey :—

"J'ai appris d'une bonne source que le Cabinet de St. James a fait auprès du Gouvernement Grec des remontrances en représentant que l'Angleterre, en sa qualité de garante de l'Emprunt Hellénique, verrait de mauvais œil la Grèce se jeter dans des aventures hasardeuses qui ruineraient le pays, et que le Cabinet d'Athènes a donné à l'Angleterre des assurances de ses intentions pacifiques."

Le Gouverneur-Général de Janina nous télégraphie, de son côté, que 200 caisses de fusils ou de cartouches expédiées par les Comités ont passé par Vonitza, à destination d'un village voisin de Carvassara, et que le Gouvernement Hellénique a envoyé en Italie 400,000 drachmes pour achat de chevaux et de mulets.

No. 121.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 392.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, September 9, 1877, 7·30 P.M.

COMMANDER of "Cockatrice" received a letter from Russian General on September 4 requiring him to leave Sulina within twenty-four hours, as an attack was to be made on military establishment of the Turkish fleet. Most of the non-combatants have been moved to St. George's, but the Commission employés and property remain. Hobart Pasha, with four ships, is at Sulina, and Commander of the "Cockatrice" thinks that the Russians cannot capture the place. He has shifted "Cockatrice" outside the chain at the entrance of the river.

No. 122.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 393.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 10, 1877, 11·30 A.M.

FOLLOWING received from Colonel Lennox, dated Tchiktepe, September 9 :—

"In consequence of the 5th, Russians have entirely withdrawn from the right bank of the Lom. Orders have been given for the restoration of the railway as far as Tcheve-navoda.

"Fuad Pasha states that his division has buried more than 2,000 Russians. The Turkish losses amount to about 1,200 killed and wounded. Head-quarters moved from Kaedjevo to Yarna Suftar last night. The Russians on the 7th entirely evacuated Popkeni and Kopace, which are occupied by Turkish cavalry. The Russians appear to be retiring beyond the Yantra."

No. 123.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Bucharest, September* 10, 1877, 11·30 A.M.

COLONEL WELLESLEY, instead of waiting for Seymour, unfortunately entrusted bag of despatches with important letters for Her Majesty and the Prime Minister to the Austrian messenger.

The bag, together with despatches for the Austrian Government, has been lost or stolen between Simnitza and Giurgevo.

My Austrian colleague has no hope of recovery. Please report to Balmoral.

No. 124.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September* 10, 1877.

GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS telegraphs, dated Poradin, Saturday, September 8, as follows :—

"On occupation of Katselevo by Turks, Russian corps has retired on entirely new positions.

"During night of 6th September our western corps, unperceived, erected batteries on heights surrounding Turkish entrenchments of Plevna. On 7th, fire was opened, which lasted all day. On 8th, artillery fight vehemently renewed; towards evening, our left wing took heights south-west of Plevna, with loss of 500 men. Our centre and right wing approached within 600 or 700 fathoms of Turkish fortifications, and occupied village of Gravitza. Our losses not great."

Telegram of 9th September says firing continued all night and this morning with greater intensity.

No. 125.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1877, 4 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram No. 389, I agree with you that the answers of the Greek Government are not likely to be considered satisfactory by the Porte. It will be better to abstain from communicating them.

No. 126.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1877, 4·10 P.M.

THE following received from Mr. Layard :—

"*Therapia, September* 7, 1877.

"Chargé d'Affaires at Athens has sent me copies of his telegrams to you of the 4th instant, but I shall make no communication to the Porte in reply to its questions referred to in my telegram No. 383 of the 1st instant until I receive your instructions.

"I fear that answers of Greek Government will be considered far from satisfactory. I hear confidentially that Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs hopes that the difficulties with Greece may be still avoided, but Grand Vizier is determined to take strong measures against her unless some guarantee is given that she will not attack Turkey."

I have replied as follows :—

"*Foreign Office, September* 10, 1877, 4 P.M.

"In reply to your telegram No. 389, I agree with you that the answers of the Greek Government are not likely to be considered satisfactory by the Porte. It will be better to abstain from communicating them."

You had better tell the Greek Government that the assurances are likely to be considered so unsatisfactory, in consequence of the qualifications which accompany them, that Her Majesty's Government do not feel that it would be of any advantage to communicate them to the Porte as they stand; but they consider it very important that the Greek Government should reassure the Porte as to their intentions.

No. 127.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 506.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1877.

I RECEIVED on the 7th instant your telegram of the same date, stating that you had abstained from communicating to the Porte the substance of Mr. Wyndham's telegram of the 4th instant, as you considered that the assurances which the Greek Government authorized Her Majesty's Government to give on their behalf were not satisfactory.

I have this day informed your Excellency by telegraph that Her Majesty's Government agree with you that the answers given by the Greek Government to Mr. Wyndham are not likely to be considered satisfactory by the Turkish Government, and that you need not communicate them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 128.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 64.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1877.

I RECEIVED on the 5th instant your telegram of the 4th, stating, in answer to my telegram of the 3rd instant, that the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs had informed you that Her Majesty's Government might assure the Turkish Government that Greece would not attack Turkey at present; but that he did not mean by this declaration to give a pledge for the future, as Greece, like every independent State, must always reserve her liberty of action according to circumstances. M. Tricoupi added that the Greek Government would pledge itself not to connive at insurrections in the Turkish provinces, but would not undertake to discourage them, though he added that they were doing so at present, and intended to do so as long as it was in their interest to follow that policy.

On the 7th instant I learnt from Mr. Layard that he had received the above telegram from you, but that he feared that the answer of the Greek Government would be considered far from satisfactory by the Porte, and that he should not communicate it

to the Turkish Government without instructions from home. Mr. Layard had been confidentially informed that, although hopes were still entertained at Constantinople that the difficulty with Greece might be overcome, strong measures would be resorted to unless some guarantee were given that she would not attack Turkey.

In communicating to you Mr. Layard's observations, I instructed you by telegraph to state to the Greek Government that the assurances which they had authorized Her Majesty's Government to give on their behalf to the Porte were likely to be considered so unsatisfactory, in consequence of the qualifications which accompanied them, that Her Majesty's Government felt that it would be of no advantage to communicate them to the Turkish Government as they stood. You were to add that they consider it very important that the Greek Government should reassure the Porte as to their intentions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 129.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 226. Political.)
Bucharest, September 1, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour, this day, to telegraph your Lordship to the effect that Prince Charles has received the chief command of the whole of the forces before Plevna, both Russian and Roumanian, and that General Zatoff has been appointed Chief of his Staff.

The above Russian force consists of two army corps, the 4th and 11th, together about 45,000 men, and the Roumanian of about 30,000, of all arms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 130.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 229. Political.)
Bucharest, September 5, 1877.

My Lord,

A FEW days since I did myself the honour to report to your Lordship that Prince Charles has received the command of the Russian forces before Plevna, retaining, as well, the command of the Roumanian contingent.

The above has caused the inference to be drawn in some quarters that the Prince of Roumania would not have received the above important command had a fresh attack upon the position of Osman Pasha entered into the Russian plans. Such an inference hardly, however, appears to me to be justified by the circumstances, for it is evident that, should such an important operation be in contemplation, the plan of attack will be matured at head-quarters, and executed under the personal supervision of the Grand Duke Nicholas.

The above appointment of Prince Charles was not effected without negotiations of a somewhat thorny nature. Many stories are in circulation respecting, first, the rebuffs, and, secondly, the encouragement which attended M. Bratiano's recent mission to the head-quarters of the Emperor. The details of the negotiations are difficult to verify, and in no wise affect the result; but I believe I am accurate in stating that no definite alliance has been made on this, more than on any other occasion, and that any arrangements which may have been consummated are of a purely military character.

Prince Charles is much elated at the position in which he finds himself, a feeling which is far from finding a re-echo in these Principalities.

The disinclination, moreover, for political co-operation with Russia is now increased by apprehension for the fate of the Roumanian army, an apprehension which is intensified by the conviction that success is not, for the moment, attending the Russian operations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 131.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 17. Political.)
Corfu, September 6, 1877.

My Lord,

IN my despatch of the 20th ultimo No. 16, Political (erroneously marked No. 15), I had the honour to report to your Lordship that the entire detachment of artillery in garrison here had been transferred to Santa Maura to occupy that fortress, the garrison of which is now raised from about 50 regulars to 470 men of all arms.

2. This measure, it appears, has raised the suspicions of the military authorities of Epirus that an irruption into the province is contemplated from the side of Acarnania; and, as Vice-Consul Onofrio reports by the mail of the 1st instant, they have begun to construct earthworks along the boundary line on the Acarnanian side, which extends from the lagoons of Santa Maura to the navigable channel which connects Prevesa with the Gulf of Arta.

3. This boundary line is marked by a deep ditch about two miles in length, and forms the base of the triangular piece of Turkish territory, the apex of which projects into the harbour of Prevesa, and is known as the "Punta" ("Audir;" "Actium"), off which the famous battle so designated was fought, and where Cæsar's camp was situated, the traces of which are still clearly to be distinguished. Here the Turks have erected a fort or outwork for the defence of the harbour on the side of Greece—a sort of block-house, but so weak in profile and so badly constructed that it might easily be carried by assault.

It is the consciousness of this fact, I suppose, and in order to strengthen the position that the Turks are fortifying their frontier line, and in this they are acting wisely; for, if the Punta fort were to be carried, the town and forts of Prevesa would be at the mercy of the enemy.

4. These precautionary steps on the part of the Turks are the inevitable consequence of the insensate measure of the Greek Government in sending their new levies to be drilled at places close upon the Turkish frontier, which fairly amounts to a hostile demonstration—as hostile as it is impotent.

5. As a specimen of the doings at Santa Maura, I venture to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a report received from Vice-Consul Onofrio, dated the 18th ultimo, but received too late to be referred to in my last report.

6. But the ill-success, hitherto, of the Russian arms on the Danube has proved a damper to the hot-headed aspirations and schemes of the Heterists throughout these islands; not that they are less bitter against the Turks, but they appear to see the expediency of conducting operations somewhat less ostentatiously.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 131.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Santa Maura, August 18, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the total number of reserves collected from this island and its immediate neighbourhood, and now being drilled at the fort, amounts to 125 men. The thirty volunteers enlisted by Dr. Marato have been sent to Carvassara and attached to the regiment of "Evzones" (Border Rangers).

2. A Greek brigantine arrived at Port Alexander on Tuesday last, 14th instant, with a cargo of 6,000,000 rifle cartridges, said to have been shipped at Marseilles by the firm of Messrs. Valiano, by order of the Athens Committee of National Defence ("Ethniki Amina"). From all the information I have been able to gather it appears that 2,000,000 have been landed here and delivered to the agent of the above-named Committee, who has been instructed to make over 500,000 to the representatives of the other Patriotic Committee ("Adelphotis"), and to retain the 1,500,000 in his possession until further orders.

The vessel will proceed to the Piræus, where the remaining 4,000,000 are to be landed.

The military authorities having refused to allow the quantity landed to be deposited

at the fort of Santa Maura, arrangements have been made for its temporary deposit at Fort Alexander.

3. I take this opportunity to report that Major (Tagmatarkis) Leonidas Kiriolos arrived here yesterday, and immediately assumed the command of this garrison.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 132.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 729.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September 8, 1877.*

IN case Mr. Vice-Consul Sankey should not have forwarded to your Lordship a copy of a despatch to Mr. Layard, which I received from him to-day under flying-seal, I forward one herewith, as its contents may be interesting to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 132.

Vice-Consul Sankey to Mr. Layard.

Kustendji, September 1, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, in spite of the ravings of correspondents, everything has been quiet here since the harmless bombardment of the 30th July. We have here a Military Commandant de Place, a Russian Civil Governor, assisted by a Council of inhabitants, Greeks, Bulgares, Armenians, Jews and Tartars.

General Zimmermann's head-quarters are at Schernavoda, part of his men are on the road between Silistria and Medjidkreh, part between the latter place and Bazardjik, and the rest at different spots between Musfallar and Mangolia; the camp at Kustendji consists of about 8,000 of all arms. Until very lately, there have been constant skirmishes between Cossack and Circassian outposts, but these have ceased, and Cossack scouts report the country between this and Caliakria free of Turks.

The Russian soldiers are wonderfully quiet and well-behaved, and do not give any trouble, and the time of the Cossacks is pretty well taken up in preventing Bulgares persecuting Tartars.

A very few Turks and Tartars have returned, they being afraid, naturally, of Bulgare reprisals.

The only news we get here is what the Russians allow to come. I find a great difference in the talk of the General Officers; at first, a triumphal entry into Constantinople was a *sine qua non*; now they would be satisfied to make peace north of the Balkans if England would consent to the freedom of the Dardanelles. They also covet Bessarabia, and wish to indemnify Roumania with part of the Dobrudscha. Very little of the splendid harvest can be got in, as the Turks drove away all the horses and carts in their retreat. We shall also soon be compelled to trust to Roumania for meal.

From my personal experience of the Danube, I consider that if the Russians do not finish the campaign before winter, they will be in a very unenviable position. It is seldom that the Danube freezes completely, and then not longer than for ten days, so as to be able to cross on the ice; the rest of the winter the floating ice would carry away every vestige of a bridge, and would also prevent boats from crossing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. F. SANKEY.

No. 133.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby—(Received September 11.)

Tehran, September 11, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 19th July, the Shah, while stating his appreciation of the friendly support accorded by Her Majesty's Government, is indisposed

to enter into discussion now with the Russian Government, both he and his Minister being apparently apprehensive of exasperating Russia by formally protesting at the present moment. This matter is reported upon in my despatch No. 139.*

No. 134.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 394. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 11, 1877, 9 P.M.*

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs showed me to-day telegram from Turkish Embassy at Vienna, relating conversation with Count Andrassy, in which latter stated that he held Russia to her promise that Russian troops should not pass through Servia; if, as in the Servian war, Russian troops, under any disguise or pretence, were to enter Servia, it would, Count Andrassy said, be a deceit, and he was not going to be deceived. If Servia attacked Turkey, he added, she might take such measures as she thought fit against her, and Austria would not interfere. Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs told me that a plan was being prepared by the Council of War for such measures, but he could not yet tell me what it would be.

Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs observed that language recently held by Count Zichy was more satisfactory than it had previously been. He had stated that both the Emperor and Count Andrassy had much sympathy for Turkey, and Count Andrassy had even suggested a military movement for turning Shipka Pass as one which would seriously embarrass Russians. I have observed the same change of language on the part of Count Zichy. He told me yesterday that he had advised Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the event of an attack of Servians, to throw 15,000 or 20,000 Bashi-Bazouks into Servia. Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs confirmed this to me. Servian Agent seems to think that Austria is trying to incite the Turks to attack Servia, in order to avail herself of an excuse to enter Bosnia.

No. 135.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 395.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 11, 1877.*

FOLLOWING sent to Belgrade:—

"Servian Agent informs me that he received telegram yesterday from Ristich to the effect that accounts sent from Belgrade as to understanding between Servia and Russia, and the intention of the former to attack Turkey, were greatly exaggerated, and authorizing him to give assurances to that effect. Servian Agent tells me that he has warned his Government of the consequences to Servia of joining in the war."

No. 136.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, September 11, 1877.*

NICHSICHS capitulated on the 8th instant.

No. 137.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 100.)
My Lord, *Tehran, July 11, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, translation of a telegraphic communication from the local Government at Tabreez to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, reporting that the outrages committed in Turkish territory on the Christian population

* Not yet received.

of the district of Albakh, referred to in my despatch No. 103 of the 4th instant, had in reality been committed by Turkish Kurds, and that the few Persian Soonnee Kurds who had crossed the frontier, and were accused of having taken a part in these outrages, had been induced to enter Turkey for the purpose of joining in the religious war against Russia, at the instigation of the Turkish Sheikhs and priests.

I have, &c
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

Inclosure in No. 137.

The Deputy Governor of Tabreez to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

(Translation.) *June 27, 1877.*
(Telegraphic.)

YOU have written that the English and Turkish Legations state that the Shakkak tribe have plundered several villages in the district of Van, and carried off the property of the Armenians from their church; that the said tribe are, without hindrance, engaged in plunder and bloodshed in the neighbourhood of Oroomiah and Salmas; that they have pillaged the villages of Oroomiah and Salmas, and put to death both Mohammedans and Christians.

In the first place, thanks to God, except the recent affair of Margavar, which was duly reported, nothing more has taken place. How can it be that the authorities of Azerbaijan should be ignorant of what their subjects are doing? What Christians or Mohammedans have been killed in Azerbaijan? Thanks to God, nothing has happened in this province. Respecting the Shakkak tribe, who have gone to Turkey, and the pillage and bloodshed which it is said they have committed, please inquire of the Ottoman Legation whether, if the said tribe has gone to Turkey, it has not been through the instigation and support of the Turkish Mollahs, the Sheikhs, and other leading men, and on the plea of going to a religious war, or whether they have only gone to rob and make mischief. If they have gone over with the intention of plundering and bloodshed, why has not the Valee of Van, with all the regular troops and tribes which have assembled at Albakh and Bayazid to fight, not send them out of the country or killed them? If they have invited them to assist in the religious war, only one or two hundred men, horse and foot, have gone over; and how can such a small body, amongst a force of 18,000 men and all the Sheikhs, go and pillage in the way which has been stated? It is the Turkish Sheikhs and their Kurds who have plundered the twenty-five villages in Albakh, which were inhabited by Armenians, and committed bloodshed, the plundered people of which are now dispersed in Persian territory and the villages of Salmas. They (the Kurds) have also killed and plundered the Armenian community of Bayazid; even a large number of the females have suffered. The Kurdish Sheikhs and Chiefs publicly state that the Governments of Van, &c., have given full leave to kill and plunder the Christians, whether they are Turkish or Russian subjects. Wherever these robbers go they destroy and devastate like locusts. They make no difference between Mohammedans and Christians. Wherever they go they plunder; the only thing is that they put the Christians to death and not the Mohammedans.

Notwithstanding this, upon the statements made by the Consuls on the subject, I sent Latfullah Khan among the Shakkak tribe; and, on the other hand, I have instructed the 5th Regiment, with the Afshar horse, to come by Sama Verdoost, and to finish the Kurds and Shakkaks if they commit any depredations. Yesterday I also dispatched Koolee Khan, the Assistant Foreign Office Agent, amongst the Shakkak tribe to investigate the matter.

Whatever was necessary for the safety of the frontier at Makoo I have also done. I have ordered the authorities there to collect their horse and foot, and prevent the Jellalee tribes from entering Turkey; also any aggression on the part of the Turkish tribes. The line of frontier is over fifty fursukhs in extent, and this is all inhabited by Kurdish tribes of the Soonnee faith. The Turkish Government has the same tribes as we have, and they are all related to each other. Their Chiefs and Sheikhs are continually enticing our tribes to cross over. Just see in how many places I have put soldiers, horsemen and guns.

No. 138.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 114.)
My Lord, *Tehran, August 2, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter which I have addressed to the Persian Government, stating that I had been officially informed by Colonel Nixon of the evacuation of Shatha by the Turks, and that Dr. Colville, of the British Residency at Bagdad, had seen that the evacuation was complete.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

Inclosure in No. 138.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to Mirza Hussein Khan.

Tehran, July 28, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Highness that I have received a telegram this morning from the British Resident in Bagdad, stating that the Island of Shalheh had been completely evacuated, and that Dr. Colville, who was sent by Colonel Nixon in the steamer "Comet" to the spot, saw the evacuation carried out.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

No. 139.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 116.)
My Lord, *Tehran, August 6, 1877.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 23rd ultimo, instructing me to urge that measures should be taken by the Persian Government with a view to protect the Christian population in Turkish Armenia from the threatened attacks of Kurdish tribes, I have the honour to state that I had already, as reported in my despatch No. 109 of the 11th of July, brought the matter before the Persian Government, and urged them to adopt prompt measures with that object.

On receipt of your Lordship's instruction I again addressed the Persian Government on the subject, and a few days later I sent a further communication to the Persian Minister based upon Mr. Abbott's despatch No. 47 of the 10th of July, urging, with reference to the outrages which had been committed at Albakh, that steps should be taken for the recovery and restoration of the plundered property.

I transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of those communications together with a translation of the Persian Minister's reply, and a copy of my despatch to Mr. Abbott, informing him of the substance of your Lordship's telegram above referred to.

The Persian Minister complains that it was at the instigation of the Turkish local authorities that the Persian Soonnee Kurds who crossed the frontier in defiance of the orders of the Persian Government had been induced to do so, and declares that the pillage of the villages in Albakh was owing to the fact that the Turkish authorities had failed to provide for the subsistence of the Kurds assembled under arms to engage in the Jehad against Russia, had given licence to them generally to plunder the Christian villages. He further asserts that a sword has been presented by the Turkish authorities to Ahmed Agha, the son of the Persian Shekak Chief, who was at the head of the Persian Kurds at the plunder of Albakh, and declares that the Persian authorities are prevented from recovering the remainder of the property plundered, or from punishing such of their subjects as took part in the outrage, because the Turkish authorities had assured the Persian portion of the Shekak tribe that, if pressure were put upon them by Persia, they would be received and protected in Turkish territory, and that the district of Albakh would be assigned to them if they went over to Turkey.

The Minister concludes by stating that he will undertake to punish the guilty persons and restore the property carried off from the Armenians if the Turks will, on their part,

engage not to receive these Persian Kurds in Turkish territory or allow them to remain there, but will deliver them over to the Persian authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 139.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to Mirza Hussein Khan.

July 25, 1877.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government having received intelligence of the imminent danger to which the Christian population of Christian Armenia was exposed from the lawlessness of the Turkish Kurds, and that a body of Persian Kurds of the Shekak tribe had, notwithstanding the neutral position of Persia in the present war, crossed the frontier into Turkish territory in order to take a part in these acts, I have been instructed by Lord Derby to bring this matter before the Persian Government, and to impress upon them in the strongest manner the necessity for taking immediate and energetic measures to prevent any of their subjects from taking a part in such lawless acts which it was apprehended might result in the indiscriminate plunder and possibly massacre of the Nestorian and other Christian inhabitants of that part of Turkey.

On the 22nd of June last I had already addressed your Highness on this subject, when I informed the Persian Government that several Christian villages in the district of Albakh and a Christian convent there had been plundered by Persian Kurds of the Shekak tribe, and strongly urged that stringent and peremptory orders should be issued to the local authorities with the view of justice being done to the Christians who had suffered.

On the 23rd of June stringent orders were issued by your Highness to the Government of Tabreez for the immediate punishment of the guilty parties and for the restitution of the property plundered.

From the reports made by the Deputy Governor of Tabreez to the Persian Government, and from his telegram to your Department dated June 27, a copy of which was transmitted to me by you, it would appear that it is alleged that the outrages committed in Turkish territory on the Christian population of Albakh were in reality committed by Turkish Kurds, and that the few Persian Soonnee Kurds who had crossed the frontier and were accused of taking a part in those outrages had been induced to enter Turkey in order to join the religious war against Russia at the instigation of the Turkish Chiefs and priests; that those who had gone over only numbered in horse and foot from 100 to 200 men, and that Kooke Khan, the Assistant to the Foreign Office Agent at Tabreez, and Lutfullah Khan had been sent amongst the Shekak tribe to investigate the matter and to bring back the Persian Kurds who had entered the Turkish territory in defiance of the orders of the Persian Government.

A sufficient time has now elapsed for the agents in question to have given effect on the spot to the orders furnished them by the Government of Tabreez, and I shall feel greatly obliged if your Highness will now acquaint me, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, whether they have succeeded in bringing back the Persian Kurds who had crossed into Turkish territory, and that measures have been adopted for the punishment of those who had contravened the orders of the Persian Government in this respect, and for preventing a repetition of similar acts on the part of that or any other Persian frontier tribe.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 139.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to Mirza Hussein Khan.

July 30, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to the letter which I wrote to your Highness on the 25th instant, respecting the danger to which the Christians in Turkey were exposed by the lawless acts of the Kurds and the outrage committed by a body of Persian Kurds of the Shekak tribe, in the district of Albakh, I have now the honour to state that, according to information which has reached me to-day from Tabreez, it appears that the Armenian refugees for that district who have sought safety in this country at Salmas numbers in all about

800 persons. 130 khawas of wheat had been distributed amongst them, contributed by the Sahib Divan, the Sheikh-ul-Islam of Salmas, and the inhabitants of the district. The refugees had also been supplied with clothing by their co-religionists at Salmas, and a donation of 25 tomans had been given by the local authorities towards this charitable object.

It appears, however, that Ali Agha Shekak has refused to obey the summons of the Ikbal-ed-Dowleh to come to the camp at Chemen Deryshk, and that he has shut himself up in the fortress of Chehresk, near Sumieh Vera Doost, with seven of his sons, and a guard of fifty men.

It is understood that a large amount of booty sent from Albakh and its neighbourhood by Topal Ahmed to his father, Ali Agha, consisting of cattle, sheep, horses, carpets, and household goods, has been given up by the latter to the Persian authorities at Salmas.

I trust that immediate steps will be taken by the Persian Government for the recovery of all such property, in order that it may be restored at once to the plundered Christians. What has been brought to Salmas is only a small portion of the whole amount, as twenty-four villages were plundered, and the church and monastery were stripped of everything. The remainder is believed to have been secreted on both sides of the frontier, and it might be recovered if pressure were put upon Ali Agha and his son Topal Ahmed, both of whom are cognizant of its place of concealment.

Topal Ahmed is still in Turkish territory, with about 200 men of his tribe.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 139.

Mirza Hussein Khan to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

(Translation.)

I HAVE understood the contents of your Excellency's two despatches of the 25th and 30th July, respecting the danger to which the Christians in Turkish territory are exposed by the lawless acts of the Kurds, and your request that the property plundered by the Shekak tribe from them (the Armenians) should be recovered.

In reply, I beg to state most respectfully that, at the outset of these occurrences, when your Excellency also addressed me on the subject, I immediately wrote in a stringent and distinct manner to the Government of Azerbaijan, asking for an explanation of the facts, and instructing them to send a special agent to the frontier to bring back any of the Shekak tribe who might have crossed into Turkish territory. On that occasion I only received the following news from Azerbaijan: "Sheikh Obeidullah and the Turkish frontier authorities, having invited the Shekak tribe, both by secret and open means, to join in the Holy War, about 200 men have apparently gone over, and Kooke Khan Serheng has been sent to bring them back."

I also brought this intelligence to your Excellency's knowledge in detail. Since then I have pressed the subject by every courier, until Kooke Khan went, and he having ascertained the real state of the case, has made the following authentic statement:—

"Sheikh Obeidullah and his Lieutenants having notified a Holy War to all the Kurds and their co-religionists in Turkish and Persian territory, and having enticed them, by correspondence and in numerous other ways, they assembled about 20,000 men in Turkish territory from the neighbourhood of Kerkook, Mosul, Diarbekir, Suleimanieh, Shekri-Zoor, &c., who, finding themselves short of provisions and forage, were obliged to apply to the Sheikh for the same; he then gave a religious sanction to their plundering those villages. And, in consequence, the whole of the villages in that neighbourhood were plundered.

"After this, the Sheikh succeeded in inducing, by various means, 200 of the Sheknks, who secretly went over with Ahmet Agha, the son of Ali Khan, of Shekak, who joined the said 20,000 men, which occurred when the plunder of Albakh took place, and Sheikh Obeidullah, who gave leave for plundering the Armenians, merely to avoid all responsibility in the case, giving special orders to all his men to say that they were of the Shekak tribe and Persian subjects."

For otherwise it is quite clear that these Shekaks were not more than 200 men, and those who plundered were 20,000. The amount of plundered property belonging to the Armenians, which has since been recovered and restored, is according to the list herewith inclosed for your Lordship's information. Your Excellency has in your letter also acknowledged that such Armenians as have come to Persian territory have been

benevolently supplied with grain, provisions, quarters, and clothing, and no hesitation has been shown, nor will be shown in these acts.

All the Shekaks who were in Turkish territory have been brought back to the frontier with Ahmed Agha, and stringent measures have been taken for the recovery of the plundered property, and the punishment of such persons who crossed the frontier without the permission of this Government and committed those acts. The Shekak tribe having secretly applied to the Turkish authorities, they have presented a sword to Ahmed Agha, the son of Ali Khan, and assurances have been given to them (the Shekaks) that, should they find themselves unable to remain in Persia, they may come to Turkish territory, and the neighbourhood of Albakh will be granted to them, and they will be accepted and protected by the Turkish authorities.

This point is therefore clear to your Excellency that, should pressure be put upon the Shekak tribes, they will cross into Turkey and be well received; also that it is impossible for any Government to turn the tribes who reside there out of its territory with its own hands. If the Ottoman Legation will give official assurance through the British Legation that, should the Shekak tribe cross into Turkish territory, it will not be received or allowed to remain, and that they will be immediately made over to the Persian authorities, the Persian Government will adopt the most strenuous measures for punishing such persons as have committed plunder, and it will force them to restore all the property they may have carried off from the Armenians, for otherwise your Excellency's sense of justice will never allow that the Turkish authorities should complain of the Shekak tribe on one hand, and on the other present to Ahmed Agha a sword, and promise the neighbourhood of Albakh to his tribe, and then again demand (that Persia should recover the plundered property of the Armenians from them (the said tribe). Hereby to inform your Excellency of the true state of the case, and to show the exertions which have been made by us, I have troubled you with this communication.

Inclosure 4 in No. 139.

List of Property recovered for the Inhabitants of Albakh, and made over to them.

(Translation.)

18 Geteems.	18 Horses.
6 Habhabs and mattresses.	73 Sheep.
9 Namads.	
1 Sack.	92 Sheep.
2 Saddle-bags.	2 Buffaloes.
3 Cooking-pots.	2 Cows.
1 Cooking-pot, small.	
1 Pair pistols.	44 Sheep.
1 Gun.	2 Buffaloes.
1 Sword.	
4 Sets of saddles.	13 Buffaloes.
	17 Black cattle and one donkey.

Inclosure 5 in No. 139.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to Consul Abbott.

Tehran, July 26, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatches on the subject of the danger to which the Turkish Christians in the Nestorian and other districts of Armenia are exposed from the lawlessness of the Kurdish tribes, I am directed by Lord Derby to inform you that, under instructions from his Lordship, I have pointed out to the Persian Government the evils which may be anticipated from the action of these tribes, and have urged upon them to adopt energetic measures with reference to the Persian Kurds, some of whom have crossed the frontier for purposes of pillage under the pretext of joining their Soonnee clansmen in the war against Russia, in order to avert the dangerous consequences which are likely to ensue from their proceedings if not checked in time.

Similar instructions have been sent by Lord Derby to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte.

I inclose herewith for your information copy of a letter which I have addressed on this subject to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

No. 140.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 117.)

My Lord,

Tehran, August 6, 1877.

IT was said here when General Franchini was leaving Tiflis for this country that he was about to visit Tehran on his way to join General Lamakine on his expedition to the Akhal Turkoman territory. But since his arrival here there has been no indication of its being, or ever having been, his intention to proceed to that place.

For the present he is established at Tehran, and apparently has no intention of quitting the capital. He has lately visited the arsenal, and in consequence of the remarks which were made by him regarding its condition several Persian officers have been named to form a Commission for the purpose of ascertaining and reporting on the defects which exist.

The Persian Government have up to the present time professed complete ignorance of the real object of his coming to Tehran, and it has been suggested that possibly it may be intended by his presence here to convey the impression in the present state of insurrectionary feeling amongst the Mahomedan population of Georgia and the Caucasus, that there is an understanding between Russia and Persia which will preclude the possibility of their receiving any support from this country.

Since the audience, at which General Franchini was presented to the Shah by M. Zenovieu, he has on one other occasion (the 8th of July) been present when the Russian Minister was received by His Majesty, but I am assured that during this audience also no allusion whatever was made to political matters affecting Persia in the present war.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

No. 141.

Consul Abbott to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 14.)

My Lord,

Tabreez, August 1, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship the copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran, respecting the relief afforded by Persia to Turkish-Armenian refugees who have sought safety within her dominions from outrages committed by Persian Kurds in the Ottoman district of Albakh, together with some observations regarding the present position of affairs on the Turco-Persian frontiers of Kurdistan.

Since writing the report which forms the inclosure to the present despatch, an officer on the part of the Deputy Governor of this province has waited upon me with a message from his Excellency stating that the relief afforded by the local authorities, acting under the commands of His Majesty the Shah, to the Christian refugees at Salmas, in the shape of food and clothing, has been of a very bountiful nature. In corroboration of this statement the Persian officer produced several documents which, he informed me, his Excellency had instructed him to show me. These were the grateful acknowledgements of the refugees for the beneficent treatment they had received from the Persian authorities since their arrival in the territory of the Shah.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

Inclosure in No. 141.

Consul Abbott to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

Tabreez, July 26, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 47, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that the Armenian refugees from Albakh, who have sought safety at Salmas, number about 600 persons.

A considerable amount of wheat has been distributed amongst them. His Excel.

lency the Sahib Divan, the Sheikh-ul-Islam of Salmas, and the inhabitants of that district, have all contributed their share.

The refugees have been also supplied with clothing by their co-religionists at Salmas; the local authorities have sent them a small donation, and the Armenian Archbishop is collecting funds among his flock for the same object.

Ali Agha, Chief of the Shekak Kurds, has refused to obey the summons of the Ikbal-ed-Doulch to come to the camp at Chemen Diryshk, and has now shut himself up in the fortress of Teheyrigh, near Sunich, with seven of his sons, and a guard of fifty horsemen.

A large amount of booty, sent from Albakh by Topal Ahmet to his father, Ali Agha,—consisting of cattle, sheep, horses, and household furniture,—has been given up by the latter to the Persian authorities at Salmas.

Topal Ahmet is still in Turkish territory with about 300 men of his tribe, and the probability is that the remainder of the plunder is still secreted on both sides of the frontier; that the father and son both know where it is concealed, and that it might be recovered were pressure put upon them. The property brought to Salmas can only be a fraction of the whole: it must be remembered that the church and convent at Albakh were stripped of everything, and that twenty-four villages shared the same fate.

Intelligence has reached me from a Persian source—and I therefore impart it to your Excellency with all possible reserve—that the Porte has rewarded Topal Ahmet with a sword for his military exploits; that the Turkish authorities have given him permission to reside permanently at Albakh; and that he has been furnished by those authorities and by Sheikh Obeidoolah with a document certifying that he took no part in the devastations committed in that district. The Sheikh is ready, I learn from the same source, to assume the whole responsibility of those reprehensible proceedings.

It is expected that the Sahib Divan will proceed shortly to the camp at Chemen Diryshk, his Excellency hoping to be more successful than the Ikbal-ed-Doulch in his endeavours to induce Ali Agha to come to terms and to visit the camp.

The retention of Ali Agha as a hostage by the Persian Government might lead to the restitution of the remaining booty by his son, Topal Ahmet; but with regard to the latter, it is not at all probable that the authorities of the Porte would ever consent to arrest him on Turkish soil, and deliver him up to Persia.

It is true that this robber Chief, a Persian subject, crossed the frontier into Turkey with 300 Persian Kurds, and, on his way to "the holy war," rendered himself obnoxious to the Christian subjects of the Porte, upon which the Turkish authorities made a show of being very irate against Persia; but it must be remembered that all these Kurds were summoned to the "djehad" by their religious Chief Sheikh Obeidoolah, and there can be little doubt that their subsequent military exploits will have obliterated from the minds of the Ottoman authorities any unpleasant recollection of their doings at Albakh. And with regard to Persia, it is equally true that she connived at the conduct of her nomad subjects in this respect; that she welcomed an opportunity by which she could saddle her refuse populations upon Turkey, foreseeing that their acts of violence would heap fresh opprobrium upon the Porte; and that in so doing she was instigated by Russia.

The conclusion to be drawn from all this is that neither side can be wholly absolved from blame. Persia, a neutral Power, if from no other consideration, ought not to have allowed an army of Kurdish auxiliaries to leave her dominions after the declaration of war for the ostensible purpose of fighting for the Turkish cause; but it devolved upon Turkey, when those hordes had flocked to her standard, to keep them in discipline, and to shield her unoffending subjects from rapine and murder at their hands.

The presence of a Persian army in the district of Salmas, whither a large number of the Christian subjects of the Porte have taken refuge, throwing themselves upon the protection of His Majesty the Shah, cannot be pleasing in the eyes of the Turkish Government, but in the absence of any guarantees for the future safety of their lives and property, it is difficult to see how these refugees can be expected to return to Albakh.

At the same time it is to be hoped that the authorities on both sides of the frontier will perceive that their best course would be to adjust existing difficulties in a friendly spirit, and thus afford no pretext for the intervention of their common enemy—Russia—at the present moment to gain her own ends.

The alleviation of the wants of the refugees; the restitution to them of as much property as can be discovered both in Persia and Turkey, the Persian and Ottoman authorities co-operating to effect that object; the retention of Ali Agha as a hostage by the Persian Government; a reciprocal engagement on the part of the Porte and Persia

to restrain in their respective territories the fanatical impulses of Sheikh Obeidoolah and the excesses of Topal Ahmet, with the understanding that if the latter re-enter Persia he shall be forthwith arrested, these would seem to be measures which might be adopted by the Persian and Turkish Governments without any interruption of friendly feeling on either side.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

No. 142.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 68. Political.)
Erzeroom, August 21, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE received further details of the late massacre of Christians by Kurds at Bayazid. A Protestant Armenian residing at Van, who was for several years attached to this Consulate, writes to me under date July 30, as follows:—

"From friends of mine who have recently returned from Bayazid I have positive statements that 480 persons were murdered, and that 340 boys, girls, and young women were carried away captive for their base purposes. These were not all from the city, but in part from the surrounding region."

The number of victims here given is, I believe, accurate, as it coincides with the results given me by Captain McCalmont, and also by an Armenian who was in Bayazid during the massacre.

It appears that several Turks of Bayazid took into their houses many Christians, and protected them from the fury of the Kurds. This was done in return for the Christians having taken under their protection the property of the Mussulmans, who, on the approach of the Russians, feared they would be robbed and maltreated. Some of these Mussulmans, I am told, fell victims to their humanity; but the more influential ones were able to overawe the Kurds, and these, four or five days after the massacre, escorted the Christians to Faik Pasha's camp, where they were well received and cared for. From the camp the Christians went to Makoo, in Persia, where the Persian authorities gave them shelter.

Letters have been received here from the refugees at Makoo. In these letters it is stated that a certain Sheriff Bey, an influential native of Bayazid, was the prime instigator of the massacre.

This Sheriff Bey, it appears, was appointed by the Russian Commander, when Bayazid was occupied, Governor of the town, and he so acted during the time they held it. When they were worsted, it is probable, Sheriff Bey, fearing the consequences of having occupied office under the enemy, instigated the massacre to clear himself from what the Kurds must have considered an act of treason, and to prove himself to be still a good Mussulman.

Subscriptions are being made here for the sufferers at Makoo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 143.

Vice-Consul A. Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 47.)
Trebizond, August 23, 1877.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY the Mingrelians, forming the subject of my despatch to your Lordship No. 46 of the 17th instant, and a few Christian Abazians, addressed petitions to all the foreign Consuls and to the Greek Archbishop at Trebizond.

Those for the Italian, Austrian, and Spanish Consuls had been delivered when the remainder were seized by the police, and the Mingrelian distributing them apprehended, but released immediately after.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of this petition, which I have obtained from one of my colleagues.

There are in it statements of what takes place here, on which I consider it my duty to say a few words.

It would have been impossible to divide the Christians from the Mussulman immigrants on their arrival here; upwards of 8,000 were landed in four days; no lodgings being prepared for them, they were huddled together in all the empty houses which could be procured, and in several mosques.

However, I understand that the authorities at Trebizond are contemplating an arrangement of this kind, and I intend to see and to encourage the Pasha in the scheme, which, if carried out, may prevent complications.

With respect to the scarcity of the rations, as Christians and Mussulmans suffer in the same degree, I do not consider myself justified in making a suggestion in favour of one class only.

There are many wild rumours respecting the religious restrictions of which the petitioners complain.

All that I have been able to learn is that a Turkish woman snapped a cross from the neck of a child, and that another Christian child who died lately was buried by the Mussulmans against the will of his parents.

The several Abazian Christians with whom I have spoken, not later than yesterday, distinctly told me that they had heard themselves of religious pressure being exercised by the Mussulmans, but with the exception of the two above-mentioned cases, they could not cite others as having occurred to their relatives or acquaintances.

I cannot vouch for what may take place in other quarters of the town, but some of the petitioners live in front of my house in a mosque and its premises, and I can bear witness that I have never seen an Imam to step in under any pretext whatever.

Furthermore, several of the Christian emigrants went on Saturday last to the Greek churches, and three of their children were christened in them without the civil, the religious authorities, or the Mussulman population interfering in any way.

As the notion exists among the Mussulmans of Trebizond that the new Christians in the Caucasus have been subjected to a certain pressure on the part of the Russians to renounce Mahommedanism, it is likely that the former may consider themselves as having a right to use similar means for the revival among the latter of the faith of their forefathers; but I cannot say that, hitherto, these means have been openly practised by the Turks, although I know that the chiefs of the Abazians, some of whom are themselves baptized, use their influence in this sense.

I shall not fail to report to your Lordship any case of persecution which may hereafter come to my knowledge.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

P.S.—At the moment of closing my despatch I hear of the following case:—

A Greek priest having been called this morning by a Christian Abazian to bury his child, found, on his arrival in the house, that preparations were being made to convey the dead to the grave by the Mussulmans. Fearing a collision, the Greek priest applied to the Governor-General himself, who sent orders to the Committee sitting on Abazian affairs to have the child, if Christian, buried by the Greek priest. One of the Abazian Chiefs said that the parents of the child were Mussulmans, but the parents themselves were not called to be examined. However, the Committee came to no decision, but referred the case to the Pasha. The priest did not proceed there, but said that, if his ministry was required, to send word to the Metropole, where he was going. He heard nothing more on the subject, but the child was buried by the Mussulmans.

The Greek priest himself related to me all the above details.

It is rather singular that the question of the religious conviction of families should be left to the decision of the Chief of the tribe, and not to the families themselves.

A. B.

Inclosure in No. 143.

Petition addressed by Mingrelian Refugees to the Foreign Consuls at Erzeroom.

Trébizonde, le $\frac{13}{25}$ *Août*, 1877.

M. le Consul,

NOUS soussignés avons l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de ce respectable Consulat que nous sommes des habitants d'Abasie que la flotte Turque, ainsi que vous le connaissez, a transportés ici. Quant à ce qui concerne nos autres compatriotes il ne nous appartient pas de dire les moyens dont les Turcs se sont servis pour parvenir à cette émigration.

Cependant nous soussignés sommes dans la contrainte d'implorer l'attention des Consuls des Puissances Chrétiennes pour la violence continuelle exercée contre nous; d'abord nous vous faisons connaître que les Turcs qui attaquèrent notre pays, après nous avoir fait sortir de vive force de nos maisons qu'ils ont réduites en cendres, ils ont pillé nos biens meubles, et nous ont dernièrement emmenés de force à Soukoum-Kalé, ou après nous avoir enlevé dérechef tout ce que nous avons pu sauver du premier pillage ils nous ont amenés ici tout dépouillés.

Bien que nous soyons Chrétiens on nous a enfermés ici parmi nos compatriotes Musulmans avec une ration insuffisante, et nous sommes ainsi empêchés de remplir nos devoirs Chrétiens, lesquels ayant été négligés de crainte et de nécessité, ne tarderont pas à être convertis par les Imams qui visitent tous les jours nos logis dans la vue de nous faire changer d'us et coutumes, et renier à la fin notre religion.

Portant donc tout cela à la connaissance des Consuls nous sollicitons leur intervention, afin de nous tirer de cette position déplorable et désespérante, et agir de manière qu'il soit accordé à tous les Chrétiens des logis particuliers avec une ration suffisante, et qu'il nous soit accordé en outre pleine liberté afin de pouvoir remplir nos devoirs Chrétiens jusqu'à ce que nous soyons à même de retourner chez nous à la première occasion. Nous prions en outre de prendre en considération que dans cette émigration forcée plusieurs d'entre nous ont été privés de leurs proches parents, et en conséquence les pères ou mères de quelques familles sont ici, ignorant où se trouvent leurs enfants, ainsi que les épouses et mères de quelques autres ignorent également où se trouvent leurs époux et leurs enfants.

Fondés sur votre haute miséricorde et justice nous prions d'agréer d'avance, M. le Consul, les sentiments de notre vive reconnaissance avec laquelle, nous avons, &c.

(Suivent les Signatures.)

No. 144.

Vice-Consul A. Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 48.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, August* 24, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship, No. 46 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to report that I have seen within the week several Christian Abazians, who stated to me that all those of their co-religionists who were brought from Turkey lived in five villages, numbering together about 550 houses, situated on both sides of the River Kodor; that although their Chief, Kirkor Bey Cherwachidze, was a superior officer in the Russian army, they had been compelled by the Mussulman Abazians to take up arms against Russia; that after the last fight at Tshamshira, those living on the south of the Kodor had been enticed by the Turkish troops encamped on the river to cross to the north; that shortly after the Circassians, who were returning from the interior, had burned down their houses; that the Mussulmans, frightening them with the revenge of the Russians, and alluring them with promises of lands and food in Turkey, about 350 families had followed them to the seashore, where they were disarmed, and embarked for this place, the other houses on this side of the Kodor being likewise burned down after they had been evacuated; that the remaining 200 families had managed to pass to the Russians; that other 500 families of old Christians like themselves, but who had not rebelled, having for Chief Michael Cherwachidze, had refused to leave their houses, where they were left unmolested; that if they knew the Russians would not punish them, they would gladly return to their country, and on an observation on my part, they added that they were willing to do so, whatever the consequences might be for them.

An Armenian Protestant, who has been living for thirty-five years in the Caucasus, and who has now fled with the others, gives a version which can throw some light on the somewhat contradictory statements of the Christian Abazians.

He says that in his district, nine hours north of Soukum Kaleh, no compulsory means were used by the Turks, who merely stated that, being about to leave any of the Abazians afraid of the Russians might follow them in Turkey, where they would be well treated, and provided with lands and food during five years; that the Abazians taken with panic, perhaps attracted by the promises of the Turks, and no doubt under the influence of their Chiefs, who had strongly compromised themselves, fled in all directions towards the seashore, several of them following the current without having had time for reflection, and some, no doubt, against their will; that though he is himself a native of this town, where his brother is still living, he regrets to have emigrated from the

Caucasus, but that he did so under no pressure on the part of the Turks; that the houses in the district where he resided had not been burned down up to the time of his departure, but that in some places the Abazians set themselves fire to them, while in others they had been destroyed by the Circassians and by the Cossacks in the course of their military operations, a statement made to me also by Mussulman Abazians.

It is quite natural that there should be a reaction among people who exile themselves from their native land, but when the emigrants cannot speak or understand the language of the foreign country in which they find themselves when they are deprived of their usual food and given a piece of dry bread instead of the substantial nourishment they were dreaming of; when they see their children laid up with sickness, when especially several of the refugees have been hurried by fear or other motives, and when the feelings or the circumstances which had acted upon them have had time to calm down, the regrets of having expatriated themselves become intensely strong.

I am under the impression that such is the present frame of mind of nearly all the emigrants of the Caucasus, with the exception perhaps of their Chiefs. However, the Mussulmans, although not fervent, are nevertheless attracted towards their co-religionists of Turkey; they fear the vengeance of Russia and seem to be under the impression that they would have driven out of their native land if they had not emigrated voluntarily. The new Christians, who are so indifferent on the subject of religion that the old Christians themselves do not consider them as belonging to their faith, share the other feelings of their Mussulman countrymen, but in a lesser degree, and lastly, the old Christians considering, with or without motive, that they will be the aim of Mahommedan proselytism, and, hoping to evade severe punishment, through the influence of their Chief, are inclined to return to their native country.

I do not mean to say that there may be no exceptions, but to the best of my knowledge the foregoing is the general feeling of each of the three clases of immigrants.

Under these circumstances, the question arises naturally whether it is not in the interest of the Porte to clear up the situation. If the old Christians are detained in Turkey against their will, they will be a nucleus of malcontents between whom and the Provincial authorities daily conflicts will arise; they may be the cause of irritation between Mussulmans and Christians, and a consequent danger for the latter native element; and after all, no power can prevent them to return to Russia on the conclusion of the peace.

Before that time arrives large sums of money may have to be expended for the maintenance of the Christian immigrants, and their forcible detention here will no doubt produce an impression unfavourable to the Turks, while, after material and moral damage the Porte will be able to reap no good of any kind whether they return to their country or remain permanently in Turkey.

Although the old Christians express now the wish to be repatriated, it might happen that, when the means to do so are placed at their disposal, many of them will not avail themselves of the opportunity; as it might also happen that among the new Christians, and even the Mussulmans, several will not resist the temptation to return to their native land. In all cases, the Turkish Government will exonerate itself from the blame which it may otherwise incur, unless, indeed, as I have heard it suggested, the Christian emigrants are kept here as hostages, to be exchanged with such of the Caucasian Mussulmans who wanted to emigrate, and seem to have been prevented to do so by the Russians.

I have already mentioned, in my preceding despatches on the subject, that the dry bread given the Abazians was far from sufficient for keeping them in health, and I understand now that there are, especially among children, about 500 cases of fever and dysentery.

The question of the rations issued is cause, in great part, of the present general feeling of dissatisfaction among all the classes of the immigrants; a great change would take place if they were better fed. They complained of the scarcity of food to the Pasha, who telegraphed to, and just obtained from, the Porte authority to give them, instead of bread, money, which will enable them, if it be proportioned to their wants, to add more substantial nourishment to their present diet; should not this be the case, they may be tempted, as they have done a few days ago, to plunder grocers' shops, and their need of food may have for end to compromise seriously the public peace.

A company of Abazian policemen has been created to keep their countrymen in order.

There are instructions from Constantinople to establish an hospital for the Abazians, and in the meantime to receive the sick in the military hospitals; but the sick and their families do not want to part from each other, and it is easily understood, most of them being children who require the care of their parents. Without going to the expense of erecting a building the Government might more efficiently assist the sick by forwarding a few doctors to attend to their wants at home, not only here, but in all the neighbouring towns where Abazians have been landed. As their residence here is only temporary, the doctors might accompany them to their ultimate places of settlement.

In the meantime, the doctor of the quarantine, that of the municipality, and M. Marengo, a druggist practising also medicine, have undertaken to attend gratuitously the sick Abazians.

The military hospitals having hardly sufficient medicines for the use of their patients, cannot furnish any to the Abazians, who depend for the present on the little that public charity can do for them in this town.

I beg, therefore, to recommend their case to the consideration of the competent committees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 145.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 1025. Secret.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 31, 1877.

I THOUGHT it desirable to show Count Corti, the Italian Minister, Mr. Reade's despatch No. 63 of the 25th instant (copy forwarded to your Lordship in my No. 1007) relating to the request of Mehemet Ali Pasha, the Commander-in-chief of the Danube, to Mr. Reade and M. Gubernatis, the Italian Consul at Rustchuk, not to reside in that town under present circumstances. Count Corti thanked me for doing so. He informed me that M. Gubernatis had telegraphed to his Government on the subject, and that he had received the most peremptory orders not to accede to Mehemet Ali Pasha's request, but to remain at Rustchuk until the authorities threatened to remove him by force. In that case he is to protest, to take the archives to Constantinople, and to proceed at once to Rome.

Count Corti said that he had remonstrated with Count Tornelli, who had now the charge of the Italian Foreign Office, against this decision, which he considered most unfriendly to Turkey, contrary to the usual comity of nations, and amounting almost to a threat of war. But he had received so offensive a reply that he could only submit.

Count Corti observed that of late the instructions sent to him by the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs were such as to lead him to suspect that it was seeking for some pretext to fix a quarrel on the Porte. One of the instances which he mentioned, amongst several, was the order he had received to demand that Italian vessels should be allowed to enter and leave Odessa and other ports in the Black Sea, as the Italian Government did not consider the blockade effective, Greek vessels having been permitted to pass. He had remonstrated, he said, against doing that which no other Power, not even England, who had great commercial interests at stake in the Black Sea, had done. He had received a reprimand for his pains, but the demand had not been persisted in.

As Count Corti's conversation with me was strictly confidential, I venture to request your Lordship not to mention his name should you have occasion to make any communication to the Italian Government on the subject of the withdrawal of the Consuls from Rustchuk. Mr. Reade, in his despatch above referred to, has mentioned what has occurred in the case of M. de Gubernatis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 146.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 1026. Secret.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 31, 1877.

THE Sultan graciously invited Mrs. Layard and myself to spend yesterday afternoon and to dine with him at his "kiosk" and farm at Mashlak, near Constantinople. I had

during our visit much interesting and confidential conversation with His Majesty, the only person present being Said Pasha.

His Majesty talked a good deal about the war. He showed great displeasure at the way in which the late Serdar Ekrem had neglected to take measures to prevent the Russians crossing the Danube and the Balkans. His Majesty said that he had been deceived by Abdul Kerim Pasha, who constantly sent him reassuring telegrams, and disguised the importance of the Russian advance. His Majesty also very strongly condemned Khouloussi Pasha for abandoning the Shipka Pass, which he could have held until Suleiman Pasha had arrived for his relief. His Majesty expressed his satisfaction, in very modest and becoming terms, at the improved prospect of his affairs and at the recent successes of his troops, of whose courage and devotion he spoke in the warmest manner. He was confident that Suleiman Pasha would ultimately capture the Russian positions in the Shipka Pass, although at a great cost of life, and that he would succeed in joining either Osman or Mehemet Ali Pasha, as he had already advanced his outposts to within two hours of Gabrova, where he had found only a Russian detachment.

His Majesty described the positions of Mehemet Ali Pasha, especially that at Rasgrad, as of great strength. He was convinced that they would not be taken by the Russians. Some changes, he said, would be made in the military commands at Rustchuk; but he could not find a sufficient number of competent Generals to send to the many places where they were wanted.

The Sultan asked me whether it were true, as he had been told, that the English Military Attachés with his armies had formed a high opinion of the Turkish artillery. I replied that it was, and that I had heard, moreover, that an agent of M. Krupp, who had been present at the battle of Plevna, had reported that the Turkish artillery and artillerymen might be placed, if not on a par with, certainly only second to those of Germany. His Majesty was much pleased at hearing this, and invited me to go some day with him to a small armoury he had formed. He would then show me, he said, the superiority of the arms used by his troops over those of the Russians, to which he partly attributed his recent successes.

His Majesty spoke more than once, with evident pleasure and pride, of a telegram from Musurus Pasha, mentioning a conversation with your Lordship, in which, according to his Excellency, you had said that from the gallant defence she had made Turkey was to be ranked amongst the first military Powers in the world.

His Majesty dwelt at some length, and with a good deal of bitterness, on the conduct of Servia and Greece. He said that Turkey had always faithfully and scrupulously observed and respected her Treaties with them. They had no cause of complaint against her; she had never wronged them in any way; yet they now were about to take advantage of the difficulties in which she was placed to fall upon her; but "there was one God for Mussulmans and Christians," and he would not be on the side of the wrongdoer. He read me a telegram from the Vali of Bosnia, stating that Prince Milan had received a large sum of money from the Emperor of Russia, and was making preparations, at His Imperial Majesty's instigation, to attack Turkey. A bridge was already being constructed by the Servians to cross the River Drina. He had heard, with great pleasure, that Her Majesty's Government had addressed strong remonstrances to Prince Milan on his conduct, but he had a right to expect more of them, as it was in order to show his friendship for England, and his desire to follow her counsels, that he had made peace with Servia when his arms were victorious and his troops could have marched to Belgrade. He could not believe that Her Majesty's Government would permit Servia to take advantage of the impunity they had secured to her to make a wanton aggression on Turkey.

I pointed out to His Majesty that Her Majesty's Government had done all that was within their power with regard to Servia. They had expressed the strongest disapproval of the conduct of Prince Milan, and had warned him that if he made an unprovoked attack upon Turkey, he would forfeit all claim to the future support and sympathy of England. In the relative geographical positions of England and Servia Her Majesty's Government could not, I said, do more.

I added that I had been given to understand that there was a party in Servia opposed to the policy of Prince Milan, and in favour of peace. Could not advantage be taken of this division of opinion by the Porte, and the peace party encouraged, by offers of some concessions which would satisfy popular opinion in Servia, and might prevent Prince Milan from dragging the Principality into a second war with Turkey, for instance, the cession of Little Zvornik to Servia, which had been frequently recommended to the Porte by friendly Powers?

His Majesty replied that he was willing to do anything reasonable to satisfy the

Servians, but he did not know what concessions they could ask for. The rights and privileges of the Principality had never been interfered with by Turkey, but had been strictly respected. He would rather not touch upon the question of Little Zvornik at present. It would not, he believed, be advisable to give any hope of territorial changes under actual circumstances. Prince Milan's rival, Prince Karageorge, had made overtures to him, His Majesty said, and had asked for his support. If Prince Milan persisted in his disloyal and rebellious conduct, he would have no right to complain if he were replaced by a Prince who would be more faithful to his duties.

As regards Greece, His Majesty observed that Turkey desired to be on the most friendly terms with her, and had, therefore, borne from her many things which would have been resented had they come from any other Power. But the Greek Government was now openly making preparations to attack Turkey, and, whilst disclaiming any present intention of doing so, was only waiting for a favourable opportunity to begin hostilities against her. Bands of armed men were already crossing the Greek frontier into the border provinces. It was pretended by the Hellenic Government that they were ordinary brigands, but such was not the case. They received their arms from Hellenic agents, and it was their object to stir up the Greek population of Thessaly and Epirus to rebellion. Hitherto they had not succeeded, but it was necessary that measures should be taken to put a stop to these proceedings. His Majesty did not say what measures he contemplated taking, but Server Pasha, to whom I afterwards spoke on the subject, told me that, unless the Greek Government would give some satisfactory pledge that it would not engage in or permit an unprovoked aggression on Turkey, it was His Majesty's intention to send a part of his fleet under Hobart Pasha to Greek waters.

His Majesty asked me whether I thought that, in the event of the Russians being compelled to abandon the campaign for this year, and to recross the Danube, there was any hope of peace being made during the winter through the intervention or mediation of the European Powers. He said that it was his most earnest desire that a speedy end should be put to a struggle which was bringing misery and death upon such a multitude of his subjects, and which, he maintained, was forced upon him unjustly, and for ambitious objects. He called God to witness that he was anxious and ready to do everything that could be required of him for the good of his people, without distinction of race or creed; but without, at the same time, conceding any separate and special privileges to any particular population in his Empire. What he accorded to one he would give to all. He had already afforded proofs of his desire to reform the administration, and to introduce such changes in it as had been recommended by the Great Powers. Why, then, should this war be continued, and why did Europe look on and permit wanton bloodshed and ruin, such as had never before been witnessed? Could he hope for nothing from England? She had always been the friend and ally of Turkey. Her counsels had been listened to in preference to those of all other nations. The interests of the two countries were the same. Would not England, then, take the first step to stop this desolating war?

I replied that Her Majesty's Government had given proofs of their earnest desire for peace, and that if their advice had been followed war might have been avoided. I had reason to believe, I said, that Her Majesty's Government were not prepared to take the initiative in proposing conditions of peace; but I felt myself authorized to assure His Majesty that he might rely upon their friendly offices with a view to obtain the most favourable terms possible under the circumstances should His Majesty be disposed to open negotiations. I added that I had been instructed by Her Majesty's Government to give the most positive assurances that there was no truth whatever in the reports which had been spread that England looked to material advantages from the war, and that all rumours of English designs affecting the integrity of his Empire was absolutely unfounded.

His Majesty answered that he had received these assurances, which I had already conveyed to him through Said Pasha, with the greatest pleasure and satisfaction, and he begged me to return his grateful thanks to the Queen and Her Majesty's Government for the kind and generous interest they took in him and his country. He felt satisfied, he added, that they would do the best they could for him.

He then went on, at some length, to discuss the policy of Austria. He dwelt upon the friendship which had once existed between the two Empires, and the identity of their interests as regards the Slav populations. He could not explain, he said, her cold, if not unfriendly attitude. She had permitted arms and ammunition to pass freely into Montenegro and Bosnia, whilst applying to Turkey the strictest rules of neutrality. She had at one time given distinct assurances that Russia would not send troops through Servian territory, and that the Servians would not be allowed to attack Turkey. She now seemed disposed to view with indifference both these events; and he had been informed that,

even if the Servians made an unprovoked aggression upon him, she would not interfere. He could not explain this conduct on the part of the Austrian Government, especially as he had received such striking marks of sympathy from the Hungarians.

I reminded His Majesty that the Austro-Hungarian Empire contained a very large Slav population, and that consequently the policy of its Government must, to a certain extent, be influenced by this fact.

His Majesty spoke frequently during our visit, with much emotion, of the outrages and massacres which, he alleged, the Russians and Bulgarians had committed upon the inoffensive Mahommedan population, especially the women and children, and of their sufferings and misery. He warmly thanked Mrs. Layard for what she was doing for their relief, and said that he desired to express, through Musurus Pasha, his acknowledgments and gratitude to Baroness Burdett-Coutts for her benevolent and generous efforts in their behalf. "See," said His Majesty, turning to the Ministers who were present when he was speaking on this subject, "neither France, nor Germany, nor Austria do anything for our poor suffering people. England alone comes to their help. The English people are truly humane, and their sympathy and help are given wherever there is misery and want."

I ventured to say that I trusted His Majesty would give a proof of his own humane, generous, and forgiving disposition by treating the Bulgarians who had been seduced from their duty with clemency. I expressed the regret with which I had learnt that the Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks had committed great excesses upon the Christian populations. His Government might not, perhaps, be entirely responsible for them, but they could not fail to make a very painful impression in England and elsewhere. The subject was evidently a very painful one to His Majesty, and I did not, therefore, consider it advisable to pursue it further. His Majesty said that Ahmed Vefyk Pasha had been sent as Governor-General to the vilayet of Adrianople with extraordinary powers, and that, as his Excellency was my friend, I would know that those powers would be used in the cause of humanity and justice.

I thought the Sultan looking ill and worn. He has evidently gained confidence in himself and his own judgment since I first had the honour of seeing him. He spoke with animation and decision. He held to his opinions, and pushed his questions home, so that it was not easy to avoid answering them when it was not convenient to do so. The impression that I first formed of His Majesty's character has been quite confirmed from what I have seen of him since. He is getting over his timidity; he begins to feel his power, and is evidently resolved to have his own way, and to free himself from palace and other influences. He has given a recent proof of this determination by naming his Principal Secretary, who was suspected of wishing to influence him, a Senator, and thus virtually removing him from his office.

During dinner His Majesty carried on a lively conversation with Mrs. Layard and myself. He talked agreeably and sensibly upon different subjects. He spoke with evident pleasure of his visit to England, and of the kindness which he had received from the Queen. He said that he had greatly admired our gardens, adding that he was very fond of fruit and flowers. He pointed with some pride to those on the table, produced under his immediate care. I observed that some English statesmen and philosophers had recommended gardening as a pursuit to which monarchs should have recourse for rest and relaxation, and Ministers for consolation when they were out of office. His Majesty laughed, and said that they were quite right, but that he would add the care and love of animals. He had a good many birds, and he was fond of watching their habits, whilst their song cheered him when he was anxious and melancholy. I remarked that kindness to animals was universally recognized as a very praiseworthy feature in the Turkish character. He answered that this was just. He then asked a good many questions about Spanish bull-fights, expressing his abhorrence of what he had heard of them, and saying that he did not believe it was true, as asserted by Spaniards, that they came from the Arabs, as cruelty to animals was absolutely forbidden by the Mussulman religion.

During dinner, at which the Grand Vizier, and Server, Said, and Mahmoud Damat Pashas were present, His Majesty rose and proposed the health of the Queen in a few appropriate words. I thanked His Majesty, and expressed my earnest hope that the friendly relations which had existed for so long a period between England and the Turkish Empire would be maintained.

I have been thus minute in describing this dinner, as I believe that it is the first time that a Sultan of Turkey has invited to his private table a foreign Ambassador, and certainly a lady, and because what passed on the occasion may enable your Lordship to judge of His Majesty's character. His Majesty drank no wine; he is exceedingly abstemious. The stories of newspaper correspondents as to his excesses are, I am

persuaded, mere inventions. His Majesty has one wife, with whom he is in the habit of dining every day, and three children, two sons and a daughter. He has invited Mrs. Layard to see them.

I observed that during dinner, and in the evening, His Majesty rarely addressed Mahmoud Damat Pasha, who is evidently not in His Majesty's favour. On the other hand, he spoke constantly and very kindly to Said Pasha, whose influence over the Sultan now appears firmly established, and will, I hope, be exercised for good.

My general impression, derived from long conversations with the Sultan before and after dinner, when only Said Pasha was present, and when I endeavoured to sound His Majesty as to his views about peace, was that His Majesty is very anxious for it, but that he would not accept, at present, any terms which went beyond those proposed in the Protocol of London. If his arms are victorious, and the Russians are compelled to suspend the campaign for the winter, either remaining in Bulgaria or recrossing the Danube, I think it not improbable that His Majesty may make an appeal to the Powers who signed the Treaty of Paris, stating his willingness and desire to make peace, although victorious, without asking anything of Russia, and offering to carry out, of his own free will, all that was required of him by the Powers in the Protocol, thus throwing the responsibility upon Russia of carrying on this devastating war without a just cause. Said Pasha, with whom I had a confidential conversation on the subject, told me that he would advise the Sultan to take this course. By doing so no harm would be done, he observed, even if the Powers refused to interfere, and if Russia persisted in her unrighteous attempt to destroy the Turkish Empire; but Europe might, upon such an appeal, be induced to step in to put a stop to the bloodshed and ruin which can only lead to the extermination of the Mahommedan and Christian populations of a part of Turkey. At any rate the Sultan, by taking this step, would show his desire to put a stop to the war, and to conform to the wishes and advice of the Great Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 147.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 1027.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 31, 1877.*

THE Sultan expressed to me yesterday the grateful sense he entertained of the reception given to his Envoy to the Ameer of Afghanistan by the Viceroy of India, and requested me to convey to Her Majesty's Government and his Excellency his warm thanks for it.

I ventured to remark to His Majesty that Ahmet Khouloussi should take advantage of his journey to India to see the perfect freedom enjoyed by all religious sects and creeds in the dominions of the Queen and Empress of India. He would find, I said, Mussulmans filling high places, flourishing Mussulman colleges, and wealthy and prosperous Mussulman institutions of all kinds, whilst the Mahommedans themselves retained, without molestation, their own religious laws and observances.

The Sultan replied that Ahmet Khouloussi Effendi should certainly be told to do what I suggested; but His Majesty said that he was well aware of the perfect freedom enjoyed by the Mussulman subjects of the Queen. Yakoob Khan, of Kashgar, had described to him their prosperity and wealth, and their entire satisfaction with Her Majesty's rule. His Majesty added that he had seen Yakoob Khan since his return from England, and the Khan had spoken most gratefully of the hospitality and kindness which he had experienced during his visit there from Her Majesty's Government and the English people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 148.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 1028.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 1, 1877.*

AN official report having been published by the Russian Government of an encounter between a Turkish ironclad and a small Russian steamer called the "Vesta,"

in which the latter is alleged to have beaten off her big adversary, after having inflicted considerable injury upon her, Hobart Pasha and Captain Manthorp, an officer formerly in the British navy and now in that of Turkey, have published letters on the subject in the "Levant Herald," of which I have the honour to inclose copies. I do not doubt that their statements are perfectly true, and that the action, as described by the Russian official press, and for which every one on board the "Vesta" appears to have received such distinguished rewards, never came off.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 148.

Extract from the "Levant Herald."

THE BLACK SEA FLEET

The "Fethi-Bulend" and the "Vesta."

To the Editor of the "Levant Herald."

Pera, August 13, 1877.

Sir,

AS no one has thought it worth while to deny the absurd report regarding the affair between the Turkish ironclad corvette "Fethi-Bulend" and the Russian merchant steamer "Vesta," pray allow me to remark that, although to naval men the report is too ridiculous to be believed, there may be some people who are "taken aback" by such a yarn.

To these I will only say that the "Fethi-Bulend" was never within a mile's distance from the "Vesta," and that the "Fethi-Bulend's" Captain was not aware that he had injured the "Vesta" until he saw the report in the papers; also, that no one was hurt on board the Turkish ship, one spent shot merely striking the funnel. All the story about rifles, grenades, &c., is pure imagination. The "Fethi-Bulend" was carrying a deck cargo of heavy guns to be placed at Sulina, and thus was not up to the mark in speed.

I do not begrudge the easily-earned honours showered upon the Captain and crew of the "Vesta," but it is something so new in naval warfare that an old merchant steamer should attack and drive off an ironclad carrying 12-ton guns, that I think it right to make the above remarks.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HOBART PASHA.

P.S.—The "Fethi-Bulend" fired sixteen shell, long range, which seem to have done their work pretty well according to the Russian official report.

To the Editor of the "Levant Herald."

Baltjik, August 23, 1877.

Sir,

A very curious statement, even in these days of sensational reports, having appeared in the "Times" of the 8th instant, purporting to be from Captain Baranoff, of the Russian steamer "Vesta," lately chased by the Ottoman corvette "Fethi-Bulend," I ask you to allow the simple truth of the affair to appear in your columns.

The "Fethi-Bulend," an ironclad corvette carrying four 12-ton guns in a main-deck battery, and none on her upper deck, as stated by Captain Baranoff, was proceeding from Constantinople to Sulina, having on board, besides twenty-six guns, a large quantity of shot and ammunition for that place. Some thirty miles from Kustendjie she observed a steamer standing towards the land from the direction of Sebastopol, and immediately gave chase. The vessel, which, it seems, was the "Vesta," turned and made all speed in the opposite direction. The "Fethi-Bulend" chased for four hours without getting within range, but throwing an occasional long shot at her, till at last some apparent accident to the Russian (this is reported officially by the "Vesta" as something wrong with her rudder) enabled her to gain for a short time only, when he managed to get into a range of about 4,000 yards, and then threw seven shells from his two foremost guns,

not to the knowledge of the Turkish Captain with any effect. The "Vesta," having in the meantime repaired whatever was wrong, gained ground quickly, firing what artillery she had, but far short of the mark; and she continued thus rapidly to increase her distance till the Captain of the "Fethi-Bulend," having important duty to perform, and feeling it a useless chase, altered course for his destination. No one was touched on board the Turkish ship, though her fire seems to have been pretty good by the enemy's account of killed and wounded. As for ships coming up in the distance, grenades, rifle firing, &c., that is all purely imaginary.

I cannot allow that it casts any reflection on the vigilance of the Black Sea Fleet that fast steamers, commanded by enterprising men, should occasionally leave either Sebastopol or Odessa, and, eluding the Ottoman cruizers, make a raid on the southern coasts. The same thing occurred last war, when the Euxine was blockaded by the Allied Fleet. We have the satisfaction of knowing that they have never realized a prize; in fact, the burning of a few Turkish coasters is the extent of their exploits. The lesson so severely impressed on the "Vesta" will probably have a deterring effect, and I should advise them quietly to consider whether the game is worth the candle.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MANTHORP BEY, *Chief of the Staff.*

No. 149.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 1020.)

Therapia, September 1, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch, with its inclosures, from Consul Blunt relating to the outrages and massacre committed by Russians and Bulgarians on the Mussulmans and Jews of Kyzanlik. The evidence on this subject is now so complete, that no doubt whatever can be entertained of the general truth of the statements as to the atrocities perpetrated in that town; yet in a telegram to the "Times" of the 24th ultimo, a correspondent of that paper with the Russian army contradicts, in the most explicit manner, and from his own knowledge, that any such "atrocities" took place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 149.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, August 29, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Excellency four further statements relative to the outrages committed by the Bulgarians and the Russian Cossacks in the town and district of Kyzanlik.

Three of these statements are made by Jews. The evidence they contain of the acts of bloodshed and pillage inflicted upon the Jewish community of Kyzanlik during the Russian occupation of that district is confirmed by all I have heard from the numerous Turkish and Jewish fugitives, whom I have visited for purposes of relief.

I have, moreover, been assured by Turkish notables from Kyzanlik that in some instances the Jews suffered even more than the Mahommedans from the savagery of the Bulgarians.

I should also add that the Jews speak in terms of deep gratitude regarding the conduct of the Circassian irregulars who rescued and escorted them from Kyzanlik to Eski-Zaghra. They say that the Jews received from these troops equal care and protection with that accorded to the Turkish fugitives, and that it is entirely owing to their valour and devotedness that the lives of all were saved from imminent danger.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 149.

Statement of Ahmet Effendi, a Notable of Kyzanlik and Secretary to the Kadi (Judge), with reference to occurrences.

ON the 17th of July, 600 mounted Cossacks entered Kyzanlik and proceeded to the konak, where they broke open the public chest and destroyed all the archives, after which they compelled all Mussulmans to deliver up their arms. Three days later—the 20th—a Temporary Government was established, consisting of three Mussulmans and nine Bulgarians. A public crier was then sent round the town to order all shops to be opened and business to be resumed. During four subsequent days the number of Cossacks greatly increased, and Bulgarians, armed with the Martini-Henry rifle, came flocking in from the surrounding villages. The public crier was again sent round to order all shops to be closed and the inhabitants to keep within doors. Soon after this Cossacks and Bulgarians armed with hatchets broke into the houses of the Turks, which having ransacked, they proceeded to massacre men, women, and children indiscriminately. Many who had concealed themselves among the rafters of houses, down wells, and other places were hunted up, and cruelly put to death.

Several Mussulmans, after having been completely robbed of everything, were dragged before the Russian officer in command and then killed. Some fifty Turks were also carried off by the Russians, whose fate is not known. The narrator also states that 50 men and 150 women and children, while making their escape to Yeni-Zaghra under the protection of Colonel Tatic Bey, were attacked by Bulgarians, and had it not been for the timely appearance of some Circassians, they would have been all killed.

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Adrianople, August 24, 1877.

Inclosure 3 in No. 149.

Statement of occurrences at Kyzanlik, as related by Signor Eleazar Ouzielle, Attar of Rose Merchant.

THE narrator stated that on the 10th of August four Cossacks and four Bulgarians of Kyzanlik with hatchets forcibly broke into his house, and seizing him they tied his hands behind his back, and pointing bayonets and knives at him, demanded his money or his life. Seeing the great danger he was in, he gave them 80,000 piastres (about 800L) in gold and silver. Not content with this they seized his niece, Dudu, a child 12 years of age, and amidst her screams shamefully violated her. They then dragged the narrator by the beard to a fountain in the yard, and making him lie down stabbed him in the arm, and would have cut his head off but for one man, who said, "Let him go." The narrator, more dead than alive, got up and re-entered his house. Two days after this occurrence two Cossacks came and carried him to the house of a Mussulman, and, leaving him there, they went back to his dwelling and stripped it of every article of furniture, also of carpets, bedding, and furs, leaving his wife, three daughters, and one son only the bare clothes they had on.

The narrator also relates having seen numerous dead bodies of Mussulmans, men, women, and young children lying about the streets in Kyzanlik. Among other horrors he further stated that the Cossacks having killed a dog they compelled five Jews, namely:—Bohor Levi, Abraham Caterm, Mochon Caterm, Joseph Coen, and Sarat Kemal to lick with their tongues the blood of the animal from off the blade of the knife.

The Ottoman troops having protected about 114 men, women, and children of the Jewish community brought them safely to Adrianople.

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Adrianople, August 24, 1877.

Inclosure 4 in No. 149.

Statement with regard to occurrences at Kyzanlik and Shipka, related by Nissim Beraha, who made his escape from the Russians.

TWO Cossacks and many armed Bulgarians came to Kyzanlik about the 13th of August, which, causing great consternation and alarm, the Jewish population shut itself up in their houses. These were soon broken into with great impetuosity and violence by drunken and infuriated Bulgarians, who with curses demanded money at the points of knives. They ransacked the houses of Turks and Jews, carrying away everything they could, and destroyed the rest. Some 300 or 350 Jews were then collected and told that they must follow them to Shipka, or they (the Cossacks and Bulgarians) would put them to death. Two parties were then made up. One started on the 13th and the other on the following day. The first party, which included the narrator, was separated on reaching Shipka, the women and children from the men; the latter were subjected to a strict search for money and other property they may have saved from Kyzanlik. They were then allowed to go back to the women, and were all, at the request of the Rabbi, placed in a monastery or other public building.

The narrator relates that while in this place a young woman named Mazanta, about 18 or 20 years of age, who was with her grandfather in a separate room, was fetched away by two Cossacks and brought into the room occupied by him and others, who were all told to go out. The door was then shut, one Cossack remaining with the woman while the other waited outside. After a while the first Cossack came out, when the second entered, and remaining some time also came away. Shortly the woman herself made her appearance at the door, looking the picture of dismay and bewilderment, with hair dishevelled and clothes disordered, and breasts all exposed. She was sobbing and in great distress of mind. The narrator said he believed the woman to have been ravished by the two Cossacks.

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Adrianople, August 24, 1877.

Inclosure 5 in No. 149.

Statement of Occurrences at Kyzanlik, as related by Raphael Madjar, a Jewish Merchant of that Town.

ON the day following the occupation of Kyzanlik by the Russians (*i.e.*, July 18) the Cossacks and Bulgarians plundered the shops of the Mussulmans and Jews, gutting them thoroughly. It was the Cossacks who gave the first example and took the lead in this work. The day after that the two together began to pillage the houses, breaking them open with axes when entrance was refused, and demanding of the inmates their money and moveable property. One Juda Assa was killed this day by a Cossack (Dragoon?) with a bayonet for persisting to declare that he had no more money to give. The Commandant came and saw the body at the prayer of the informant. He gave orders that the murderer should be discovered and seized; but the man was never found. The informant heard that many Mussulmans had been killed. The pillage lasted three days. On the fourth day (July 21) the Bulgarian Commission issued orders by public crier that the pillage was to cease and business be resumed. Confidence was thereupon restored, and public tranquillity lasted five or six days. Upon the recapture of Eskri-Zaghra the members of the Commission and the other principal Bulgarian inhabitants quitted the town, leaving it under the protection of a few Cossacks and Bulgarian gensdarmes. These last then began again to plunder the houses and to kill the Moslems. On the 10th of August four Bulgarian gensdarmes, accompanied by a Cossack, came to the informant's house. They seized and bound him, saying they did so by order of the Commandant and the Bulgarian Metropolitan Bishop, and that the informant was charged with having spoken contemptuously of the Provisional Government. He was, however, set free on payment of 1,000 piastres, which the gensdarmes divided amongst themselves, whilst the Cossack took for himself a handsome suit of clothes. The others also took away two sacks full of wearing apparel and other things. There was a young married woman (a Jewess) named Bohora staying at the informant's house. They shut themselves up with her in a room, and, as the young woman afterwards declared, all the five successively violated her. They then went away. The informant and his family thereupon took up their quarters with a wealthy Jew named Kemal Saraff. Two

Bulgarian gensdarmes came there next day, and, firing off a shot each, called out for "Kemal." He had taken refuge in the synagogue. They found him there, and, binding him, demanded a horse and 15 liras instantly. The demand was complied with. They then bound two of Kemal Saraff's children and three others; and having killed a street dog, took its blood and put it to the lips of Kemal and the five children. The neighbours ransomed the children with a few hundred piastres which they hastily collected, but as to Kemal the two gensdarmes took him with them and murdered him outside the town, throwing his body into a ditch. On the next day but one (August 13) seven or eight Bulgarian gensdarmes came into the synagogue, a Cossack who was with them remained outside. Finding that twelve Jews had concealed themselves in the loft, they drew them out and shot them all dead in the court-yard. They forbade the other Jews to bury the bodies, saying "the dogs must eat them." The informant was in a house adjoining the court-yard and witnessed this tragedy. Two of the Bulgarians then carried off the informant and his family outside the town, where they found about ten mounted Russian Cossacks. These looked on whilst the Bulgarians proceeded to kill two Jews who were there. One of these was Tchelebon Assa by name, a poor man; the other was a shop-keeper named Tofal Juda. The latter was put to death on the pretext that he had assisted in making cartridges for the Turks during the Servian war last year; the former for no reason whatever. The Bulgarians then threatened to take the informant's life also, but let him off on his giving up his watch and all the cash he had on him, 1,800 piastres. The Cossacks took the money and divided it among themselves. Two days afterwards (August 15) a Bulgarian Cossack Major and a Captain came with two soldiers and knocked at the informant's door. On his refusal to open it they forced it, and entering, went into a neighbouring house which communicated with his by a court-yard. Here there were thirteen Turkish women with one old man, fugitives from Selvi. The Major called for one of the women, threatening in case of refusal to carry them off to Shipka. He then dragged the woman whom he had chosen into a room and violated her. The Captain meanwhile entered the informant's house with the two Cossack soldiers. They rummaged the furniture and found 300 piastres in silver which they took, as also a rug, some shirts, socks, and other articles of wearing apparel, together with all sorts of trifles, such as preserves, small hardware from a shop, &c. After rather more than an hour's stay these two officers and the soldiers went away. On the following day (August 16) the Circassians came and rescued the remaining Jews and Mussulmans. The defendant is completely ruined; his farms, mills, and other real property being destroyed, whilst the Bulgarians made him give up his bonds and receipts for money. Before the Russians came to Kyzanlik he was worth 10,000*l.*, but now nothing.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Adrianople, August 26, 1877.

No. 150.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 1030.)

Therapia, September 1, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Consul Blunt, with its inclosures, informing me that some Greek villages in the neighbourhood of Adrianople have been plundered by Circassians.

I have brought this matter to the notice of Server Pasha, and of Ahmed Vefyk Pasha, the new Governor-General of the vilayet. They are fully alive to the importance of putting a stop at once to these depredations, and I trust that measures will be taken to do so without delay.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 150.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, August 30, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis of the 29th instant, relative to the excesses committed at Olou Pasha village by Circassian marauders, as reported upon in my despatch of the same date.

I very much regret having to report further excesses by these Circassians.

The Greek villages of Dovantcha, Sharaolar, Arslar, Zalont, and Tchourekioi, in districts of Adrianople and Origounkeupsi, have been assailed by them. Three of their churches were pillaged, and their cattle was carried off, but fortunately there was no bloodshed.

The Greek Archbishop from whom I obtained the above information, bitterly complains of the increasing licentiousness of the Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 150.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Consul Blunt.

Adrianople, August 29, 1877.

Sir,

SINCE writing you on the 26th instant, reporting disorders committed in this neighbourhood by Circassians, I regret to have to record that another Greek village has been plundered, and the church violated by these people.

According to information received by Tchorlak Theodoraki Tchorbadgi, from a Greek priest, it would appear that the Greek village of Olou Pasha, near Hafsa, was on the 25th instant visited by six Circassians, who, putting up at the house of Ibrahim Aga, the Nazir of Hussein Bey, of Adrianople, insisted that a sum of 2,000 piastres should be collected for them. The Nazir pleading the poverty of the villagers, offered them 300 piastres out of his own purse if they would quit the place. They then left, but threatened to return in greater numbers, and on the following day sixteen Circassians came, which, causing great alarm, the inhabitants fled for protection to the house of Ibrahim Aga.

My informant adds that the Circassians, not finding anything worth taking from the houses, proceeded to the church, which they broke open and plundered of a large silver altar cross, the gold and silver circles from pictures of saints, silver candlesticks, the priest's canonicals and other church property, besides having destroyed pictures of saints. They again left, but threatened to return and burn the place down if they did not, in the meanwhile, pay the 2,000 piastres.

I fear the Ottoman Government is showing great want of policy in not better protecting the Greek rayahs against such outrages, as the absence of this protection may cause those Christians to turn with thankfulness to the enemy as their deliverers, instead of aiding the Government to repel them.

Whether these disorders are the work of foreign emissaries or not I am unable to say, but it is deserving of notice that, whereas during the last two years of troubles the Greek villages in this province were generally respected, it would seem they are now being gradually molested.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

No. 151.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 1031.)

Therapia, September 1, 1877.

My Lord,

AHMED VEFYK PASHA left Constantinople this morning for Adrianople. I had a long conversation with his Excellency yesterday, and received from him renewed assurances that his mission was one of clemency and mercy, and that he should do his utmost to prevent the infliction of excessive punishments upon the Bulgarians accused of being implicated in the insurrection, and to put a stop to the depredations of Circassians and other irregulars. His Excellency intends to make a journey of inspection through the province under his Government for this purpose.

I called his Excellency's attention especially to the threatened attack of the Circassians upon some Greek villages to the south of Adrianople. I pointed out the importance of taking immediate measures to prevent proceedings which would irritate the Greek population, and give a plausible pretext to the Hellenic Government to attack Turkey. His Excellency expressed his complete agreement with me, and promised that he would at once institute inquiries into the matter.

I also spoke to his Excellency about two Bulgarians named Gueshoglou, who have been arrested at Philippopolis, and whose lives were considered by Vice-Consul Calvert to be in danger. One of these gentlemen had adopted English nationality whilst residing for some time in England, and was, I believe, well known to the late Lord Strangford. Since his return to Bulgaria he has resumed his status as a Turkish subject. Ahmed Vefyk Pasha assured me that these persons ran no danger, although he believed that they had been connected with the secret organization which had led to the insurrection in Bulgaria. How far this may be true I am unable to say.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 152.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 1032.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 1, 1877.*

I HAVE brought to the notice of the Grand Vizier the substance of Consul Sandwith's despatches No. 57 and 58 of the 23rd and 25th ultimo (copies of which have been transmitted to your Lordship), and have pointed out to his Highness the great importance of conciliating the Christian inhabitants of Crete by redressing their just grievances. His Highness has received my representation in good part, and has thanked me for the information that I have communicated to him. He says that he has now learnt that the Cretans are willing to send Commissioners to Constantinople to submit their case to the Porte. They will, his Highness assures me, be well received, and if their demands are just and reasonable they will be conceded; but the Turkish Government could not yield before the threatening attitude of the recent meetings described by Mr. Sandwith.

His Highness states that the last accounts received from Samih Pasha as to the condition of the island are more favourable, and he hopes that no disturbances need be apprehended. I trust that such may be the case, as the Turkish Government is prepared to take decided measures to put down any attempt at insurrection on the part of the Cretan Christians.

I have, &c
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 153.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 1034. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 1, 1877.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs has informed me that, as he has been unable to obtain satisfactory explanations from Vienna of the policy of the Austro-Hungarian Government with regard to Servia, he has "put Count Zichy into a corner," by asking him to answer categorically two questions, namely, whether, considering the assurances given a short time ago by Count Andrassy, that Russia would not send troops through the Servian territory, and that Servia would not attack Turkey, Austria was still prepared to prevent the passage of a Russian army through Servia, and whether she would permit Servia alone to attack Turkey.

Count Zichy, Server Pasha said, seemed very much embarrassed to answer these questions, and replied that he would transmit them to his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 154.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 1035.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 3, 1877.*

IN pursuance of the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 448 of the 18th ultimo, I to-day informed the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs of the

communication made to your Lordship by the German Ambassador with reference to the alleged mutilation and killing of Russian prisoners who have fallen into the hands of the Turkish regular troops; and I stated to his Excellency that, if it be true that such acts have been committed, the strongest orders should be issued to prevent a recurrence of them.

His Excellency said that representations on this subject had been addressed to him by the German Ambassador, and by other foreign Representatives, and that, without admitting the truth of the charges against the Turkish soldiers, he had answered that measures should be taken to carry out in every respect the stipulations of the Geneva Convention.

Server Pasha added that, after Prince Reuss had spoken to him about the alleged violation by the Turkish troops of the Geneva Convention, he had stated to his Highness that the Porte had been informed by Mukhtar Pasha that the Russian troops had fired upon the "Red Crescent" during the military operations in Armenia. In Bulgaria the Grand Duke Nicholas, on receiving remonstrances from Mehemet Ali Pasha, had agreed to respect the "Red Crescent." The Russian Commanders in Asia had, possibly, no instructions on this subject; Server Pasha, therefore, begged Prince Reuss to request his Government to submit to the Emperor of Russia that orders should be given to them to the same effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 155.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 1036.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 4, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1034 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to state that Server Pasha informed me yesterday that Count Zichy had called upon him in the course of the day, to give him the answers of the Austro-Hungarian Government to the two questions which he had addressed to his Excellency with reference to the policy of Austria as regards Servia.

To the first question, as to whether, after the assurances given by Austria to the contrary, Russian troops would be allowed to pass through Servian territory to invade Turkey, Count Zichy was ordered to reply, that the Austrian Government considered that the Emperor of Russia was still bound by his promise on this subject.

To the second question, whether Austria, notwithstanding her assurances to the Porte, would permit Servia to attack Turkey alone; Count Zichy merely replied, that in the event of Servia threatening to do so, the Turkish Government were at liberty to take such measures as they might think necessary.

Server Pasha did not consider the latter reply satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 156.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 1037. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 4, 1877.*

SERVER PASHA told me yesterday that the Porte had asked the Regent of Tunis to furnish to the Porte the contingent of troops which he was bound to provide in case of war. The Regent had replied that, although admitting his obligation to do so, he had neither the necessary number of soldiers at his disposal, nor the money required to provide them.

As regards the latter point, his Excellency said the Turkish Government had offered to bear the expenses of the transport of the troops, and of their maintenance whilst serving in Turkey. But the Regent still declined to send them.

His Excellency was under the impression that the French Government had secretly interfered in the matter; and that it was owing to the pressure they had exercised upon his Highness that he refused to comply with the request of the Porte.

As England had on more than one occasion given valuable and friendly help to

Turkey in her relations with Tunis; his Excellency expressed his hope that Her Majesty's Government would again use their influence to prevail upon the Regent to send his contingent, as it was his duty to do.

I replied that I would submit his request, confidentially, to your Lordship; but that from the information that has reached me, I had reason to believe that the statements of the Regent as to his want of soldiers and money were well founded, and that France had not interfered in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 157.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 1038.)
Therapia, September 4, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE received from Consul Watkins copy of a collective note addressed to the Kaïmakam of Limasol by the foreign Consular Agents at that place, with reference to the condition of his district, in which, it is alleged, various thefts and assaults have been committed by Mussulmans upon Christians. I have called the attention of the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to these statements; but I would venture to submit to your Lordship that it is not desirable that Consuls and Consular Agents should address, as they are in the habit of doing, collective notes to the Turkish authorities, especially when they do not refer to any questions directly affecting foreigners in general. Such joint representations cause offence, and are much more likely to do harm than good. I have told Consul Watkins that it would be better in future to avoid them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 158.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 1039.)
Therapia, September 4, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that he again asked the Greek Minister, yesterday, whether the Greek Government was prepared to give the guarantee asked for by the Porte that Greece would not attack Turkey. M. Condouriotis, his Excellency said, had replied that he was authorized to renew the assurances of his Government that Greece had no such intention, and that, as the Greek Government was now acting with the revolutionary Committees, nothing need be apprehended from them. Server Pasha thereupon stated to M. Condouriotis that, as he could obtain no other guarantee from Greece, it only remained for him to *prendre acte* of the declaration that the Greek Government was acting with the Committees, and to hold them responsible for anything the Committees might do.

M. Condouriotis, in relating to me what had passed between himself and Server Pasha, said that, according to his Excellency, M. Tricoupi had told Photiades Bey that, "pour le moment," Greece did not intend to attack Turkey, and that the Committees were under the control of the Greek Government; but that he had not gone so far, and would ask M. Tricoupi whether he had held the language attributed to him, which he doubted. I reminded M. Condouriotis that M. Tricoupi, in giving assurances of the pacific intention of Greece had invariably added "at present," and that he himself, in speaking to me on the subject, had done the same.

M. Condouriotis further said that he had asked for explanations from Server Pasha as to the concentration of troops at Punta on the Greek frontier, in violation of the VIth Article of the Treaty of 1832, and that his Excellency had answered that he was ready to give the required explanations at once. The Porte had done so because the Greek Government was forming bands on its side of the frontier for the invasion of Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 159.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 1040. Confidential.)
Therapia, September 4, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Turkish Government are at a loss to understand the attitude of Greece. Whilst they receive distinct assurances from the Greek Minister here, and through the Turkish Representative at Athens, that the Hellenic Government has no intention of attacking Turkey, they learn, from sources which they consider perfectly trustworthy, that the Greek Government is making preparations for an aggression upon the border provinces; that the Greek army is being put on a war footing; and that bands of armed men are being collected on the Greek frontiers ready to invade Turkish territory, and to excite the Christian population to rise against the Sultan. Under these circumstances, Server Pasha asked me whether the Hellenic Government had given any distinct assurances to that of Her Majesty that Greece would not attack Turkey, or endeavour to cause her embarrassment in the present war by conniving at attempts to raise the Greek population of Thessaly, Epirus, and Macedonia. If such assurances had been given to Her Majesty's Government, his Excellency wished to know whether your Lordship would authorize me to make an official communication to that effect to the Porte.

I informed Server Pasha that I could not answer the question, but that I would telegraph to your Lordship on the subject.

As I had received, that morning, a letter from Mr. Stuart, in which he informed me that there was much less danger at the present moment than there had been a short time ago of an aggression by Greece on Turkey, I mentioned Mr. Stuart's opinion to Server Pasha, who seemed to be much irritated against the Greek Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 160.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 1041.)
Therapia, September 4, 1877.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 995 of the 26th ultimo, I mentioned that two Bulgarian gentlemen, of the name of Gueshoglu, had been imprisoned at Philippopolis by the Turkish authorities, on the charge of being implicated in the Bulgarian insurrection, and that it was feared that their lives were in danger. It appears that, some time ago, one of them was asked by the United States' Minister to the Porte to act as American Consular Agent at Philippopolis, but declined to do so. Recently, fearing that he was about to be arrested, he telegraphed to Mr. Maynard that he was willing to accept the agency that had been offered to him. An application was made to the Porte for the usual papers acknowledging him as American Consular Agent, but before the firman had reached him he was taken and imprisoned. Mr. Maynard has now demanded that he shall not be harmed, and that he shall be at once sent to Constantinople, threatening the Turkish Government, in case of refusal, with all the consequences for an injury inflicted upon a person employed in the service of the United States.

Mr. Maynard asked me whether I would support him in his demand, as Mr. Gueshoglu was under British protection. I refused to do so, on the ground that Mr. Gueshoglu had no claim to British protection in Turkey, and that as a Turkish subject I had no right to interfere in the matter officially, although privately I had done my best to obtain lenient treatment for him.

I have received, confidentially, information from a trustworthy (not a Turkish) source which induces me to believe that the Gueshoglus are seriously compromised in the Bulgarian insurrection. Although the Porte may think it politic to yield to the demands of the American Minister, I cannot but think that Mr. Maynard's proceedings are high-handed, and not in conformity with international law. He endeavoured to justify them to me by the case of the Hungarian Kosyta, who, on the plea that he had been naturalized an American citizen, was forcibly taken some years ago out of an Austrian vessel of war at Smyrna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 161.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 1042.) *Therapia, September* 4, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of Ismail Pasha's Proclamation to the troops under his command, exhorting them to abstain from excesses of any kind, the original of which was inclosed in the letter from Captains McCalmont and Trotter, extracts from which were forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 1016 of the 29th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 161.

Proclamation.

(Traduction.)

PAR la protection du Tout-Puissant, le vengeur de la justice outragée, par l'assistance du Prophète et l'heureuse étoile de notre Souverain, l'ennemi, ne pouvant résister à vos valeureuses attaques dans les combats qui ont eu lieu depuis Tahir Guédik jusqu'aux frontières du côté de Alichkerd, a dû rentrer dans son pays, défait et humilié. Grâce à Dieu, c'est nous qui prenons aujourd'hui l'offensive en dépassant les frontières, ce qui a toujours été notre vœu le plus ardent. En pareil cas, je m'attends à ce qu'à l'encontre des actes iniques et sauvages pratiqués par les Russes dans notre pays, chacun de vous se comporte avec douceur et mansuétude envers les habitants opprimés de la contrée d'Erivan, qu'en conformité des bons sentiments qui sont innés chez vous, et de votre générosité traditionnelle, il s'abstienne de tout acte ayant pour but de satisfaire ses passions, qu'il ne dépasse point les limites posées par notre sainte loi, qui est supérieure à toutes celles du monde civilisé, et qu'il ne s'abaisse pas à commettre des actes de spoliation et d'oppression à l'instar des Russes. Malgré ma certitude à cet égard, un tendresse paternelle pour vous m'impose le devoir de vous faire quelques recommandations qui vous mettent à même de prouver au pays étranger vos louables qualités.

Mes enfants! Il n'est pas permis, selon la loi, la raison et la sagesse, d'altérer et de déranger sans motif la composition et les éléments primitifs d'une plante et d'un corps inanimé. Il est par conséquent évident aux yeux de tous les hommes éclairés que la destruction, d'une manière contraire à la loi, d'un être humain, qui est la plus noble créature de Dieu, implique dans les deux mondes une responsabilité effrayante. Tachez de ne jamais perdre de vue cette considération et ne donnez pas motif qu'on puisse dire de vous que vous avez été cause de la destruction d'une créature humaine, et que vous avez pillé sa propriété. Le but noble que nous nous proposons, c'est de mettre une barrière aux empiétements iniques de l'ennemi et de délivrer les malheureux qui gémissent sous le joug de sa tyrannie. Ceux qui nous en empêchent ce sont les soldats Russes, et non pas les pauvres habitants, qui attendent, au contraire, avec impatience notre arrivée. Ainsi, exception faite de tous ceux qui vous combattent réellement, gardez-vous de faire du mal à ceux qui nous demanderaient grâce, aux prisonniers, aux blessés, aux fuyards, tout autant qu'ils ne portent pas à des actes nécessitant leur destruction, ainsi qu'aux pauvres habitants, qui, au fond, sont avec vous. Respectez leur propriété, leur honneur et leurs foyers, et n'achetez rien sans le consentement préalable du propriétaire. Laissez-les libres dans leurs pratiques religieuses; respectez les lieux qui sont sacrés à leurs yeux, leurs églises et leurs prêtres. Ne démolissez aucun de ces édifices, à moins que les Russes ne s'y retranchent. Que la diversité de leur religion, de leur langue et de leurs coutumes ne vous inspire pas de l'aversion. Que votre douceur et votre mansuétude envers ceux qui ne sont avec les Russes qu'en apparence fassent verser des larmes de repentir à ceux qui n'émigreraient pas à votre suite. Ne soyons pas comme les sauvages Russes, qui à force de violences et de tourments, que la langue se refuse de décrire, à peine ont-ils pu réussir à traîner à leur suite 400 à 500 familles. Quant à ceux qui ont pu échapper à leurs griffes, ils ne manqueront pas de recommander à leurs enfants et à leurs petits fils d'exécrer la mémoire de nos ennemis.

La conduite honorable et la noblesse d'une nation ne se mettent en relief qu'en pays étrangers, tandis que lorsqu'elle reste chez elle ces bonnes qualités restent enclavées dans le coin de l'oubli, et ni la tradition ni l'histoire n'en consignent leur existence. J'espère que votre nom embellira les pages de l'histoire future du Caucase, et qu'en enseignant aux

habitants de ce pays, par de bons exemples, la civilisation et l'humanité, vous porterez le flambeau de la justice dans ces régions actuellement couvertes de ténèbres.

Ne tourmentez et ne tuez pas les prisonniers et les blessés, et ne poursuivez les fuyards pour les tuer. Abstenez-vous de toute action blâmable que notre sainte loi et les règles de la générosité défendent, comme par exemple de ne pas faire grâce à ceux qui la demandent, ou bien, après l'avoir fait, de ne pas tenir votre engagement. Notre glorieux Prophète ayant à remplir sa mission par l'épée et par la guerre, s'est toujours comporté avec beaucoup de douceur et de miséricorde envers les prisonniers. Avant de procéder aux hostilités, il invitait l'ennemi à demander grâce et de se soumettre. Il défendait rigoureusement la contravention aux Traités, et démontrait, en termes vigoureux, les conséquences funestes qui en découlent. D'après la Sainte Loi d'Islam, l'engagement pris et la grâce accordée par le dernier des Musulmans est obligatoire pour tous ses coreligionnaires. Toute nation qui a contrevenu à ses engagements n'a pas manqué d'en recevoir le châtiment par la main de son ennemi. En résumé, le but de la guerre est la destruction des forces de l'ennemi et la cessation de ses empiétements, et non pas uniquement l'effusion du sang. Lorsque ce but est atteint, quelle nécessité y a-t-il de continuer l'œuvre de destruction et de meurtre? Ne tuez donc pas ceux que vous pouvez faire prisonniers, et comportez-vous envers ceux-ci avec douceur, en conduisant, en même temps, aux hôpitaux ceux d'entre eux qui sont blessés. Un homme, à quelle religion qu'il appartient, est toujours une noble créature de Dieu. N'empêchez donc pas l'ennemi d'enterrer ses morts, et enterrez ceux qu'il n'enterre pas lui-même. Je vous recommande de ne plus frapper l'ennemi qui est tombé dans la bataille, en lui coupant un membre en dehors de celui qu'il aura perdu en combattant. Le butin est permis lorsqu'il est fait de la manière prescrite par notre sainte loi; mais celui qui en fait l'unique but de la guerre, que cet homme soit fait prisonnier ou qu'il meurt dans la bataille, il ne saurait avoir pour partage que le déshonneur dans ce monde et la damnation dans sa vie future. La guerre qu'il fait n'est pas licite; ainsi lorsque vous faites du butin en conformité des prescriptions de notre sainte loi, s'il n'empêche pas vos mouvements, vous pouvez le porter sur vous; si non, vous le consignerez contre reçu à l'administration militaire, qui le remettra en nature ou en équivalent, selon l'Iradé Impérial, soit à vous à votre heureux retour à votre pays, soit à vos familles en cas que vous tombez martyre de notre sainte cause.

Je vous recommande, en outre, de vous abstenir de tout désordre, tel que l'incendie et la destruction des stations, de la paille, du foin, et d'autres choses qui se trouvent sur les frontières; et sachant que celui qui commettrait des désordres pareils ne tarderait pas à recevoir son châtiment, de vous conduire en conséquence.

Ce petit nombre de recommandations est bien suffisant pour des hommes bien pensants. Conformez vous à cela, obéissez à vos chefs, et respectez notre sainte loi. Salut!

Le $\frac{27 \text{ Juillet}}{8 \text{ Août}}$ 1877.

No. 162.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 1043.) *Therapia, September* 4, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Consul Blunt, Captain Fife, and Lieutenant Layard, on the subject of "atrocities."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 162.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, August 27, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Excellency an extract of a letter from the Agent of the Ottoman Bank at Philippopolis, relative to the improved state of things in that town.

As regards the condition of the vilayet of Adrianople generally, I very much regret to inform your Excellency that numerous bands of Circassian marauders are perpetrating great excesses upon the inoffensive Christian inhabitants, not only of the Balkan

districts, but of those bordering on the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmora. The inclosed despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis also gives the particulars of acts of pillage committed by these people against the Greek population in the vicinity of this town.

The military authorities seem to be doing very little to chastise or to repress the authors of these misdeeds, or to protect the sufferers by them. The civil authorities cannot be held responsible. I have reason to know that they have repeatedly represented to the Minister of the Interior the growing impunity of these irregulars, and the absolute want of some cavalry for patrolling the country, but to no purpose. They next called upon the Military Commandant, Djamil Pasha, to employ his three squadrons of cavalry in this service; he refused, and thus the country remains constantly exposed to the attacks of these unrestrained plunderers.

I have been doing my best, in an unobtrusive manner, to induce Djamil Pasha to make some serious and public examples of the most guilty and turbulent, but it seems to me that he dares not do so. I fear that unless the Porte at once takes the matter in hand and acts with determination and vigour, the Christian peasants may be goaded at last into taking up arms in self-defence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 162.

Extract from a Letter from the Agent of the Ottoman Bank at Philippopolis.

Philippopolis, le 24 Août, 1877.

LA nouvelle est parvenue hier au soir ici que Chipka a été repris par les Turcs Les affaires marchant mieux. L'or commence à reparaître. La confiance renaît. Nous désirons pouvoir vous donner de meilleurs nouvelles dans quelques jours.

Inclosure 3 in No. 162.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Consul Blunt.

Adrianople, August 26, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that Athanasi Mitushoglu, Georghi Pazarko, and Constantine Shoulukoglu, Greek Rayahs, inhabitants of the Greek village of Karakasim, in the district of Ouzun-Kiupru, complained to me yesterday that a large party of armed Circassians went to their village on the 22nd instant and forcibly took away twelve horses. They also complained that their houses were entered and articles of clothing carried off, and likewise that they broke into the Church of St. Dimitri, and stole from off the altar a silver crucifix and other church property.

Informed that the robbers were in Adrianople, they tell me they presented a petition to the local authorities four days since praying for redress, but that no notice has been taken of their complaint.

In bringing this circumstance to your knowledge, and in the interest of the Porte, I venture the opinion that in the present state of affairs it would be wiser to endeavour to conciliate and win over the Greek people, and not to irritate or excite them by allowing them to be robbed and their churches insulted with impunity by marauding Circassians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 162.

Captain Fife to Mr. Layard.

Shipka, August 24, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that on Monday, the 20th August, I proceeded to the village of Kechidere near Kezanlyk, accompanied by Lieutenant Julian Layard, 37th Regiment, and saw in a ravine near the village about thirty bodies lying together, in the Mussulman dress; one was a child, and, at least, one a woman, but as they were in an advanced state of decomposition it was impossible to say if there were more.

Some Mussulman women, inhabitants of the village, who had returned to it on the arrival of the Turkish troops, informed us that, including the bodies in the ravine, a hundred Mussulmans had been massacred, of whom three were women and ten were children.

They also stated that many of the surviving women had been violated; and that the Bulgarians and Cossacks had stripped a large number, telling them that they would only give them back their clothes if they became Christians; some of them consenting to do so were taken to church in procession. The mosque was then demolished, Cossacks superintending; and that Cossacks were quartered in the village at the time of the massacres.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. C. FIFE, *Captain,*
Military Attaché.

Inclosure 5 in No. 162.

Lieutenant Layard to Mr. Layard.

(Extract.) *Shipka, August* 25, 1877.

THE village of Katchiden is not known in our map by that name, but it is almost due north of Kyzanlik and close to the foot of the Balkans. Sir R. Beauchamp accompanied Captain Fife and myself and brought his Dragoman with him, a very good interpreter, and through him we got much information from the women of the place and some gypsies. These told us that the Russians established a sort of Government in Katchideri for the twofold purposes of subduing the Mussulmans and converting them to Christianity, either by persuasion or by force.

At the head of this Government were Simon, a Cossack officer, and Constantin, a Bulgarian, their orders being enforced by about 100 Cossacks. All the arms in possession of Mussulmans were taken away and made over to the Bulgars, and they were told that if they would consent to act as servants to the Bulgarians they would not be harmed. On this understanding, about ninety of them left the village on some employment. A Mussulman happening to follow a day or two after in the same direction found the bodies of these people lying in a heap in a ravine, about half-a-mile north-east of the village where we saw them. This man returned to report at the village what he had witnessed, when a general massacre took place, about seventy more people being killed. About fifteen young girls were stripped, paraded through the streets, and brought before the Judicating Body, and were there informed that they would not be allowed to wear clothes till they became Christians. Out of pure shame they consented, and were taken to the church, after which a procession was formed, headed by music, and they proceeded to the mosque, which was demolished by the Bulgarians, a few Cossacks assisting. One of the young girls had been carried off by a Russian officer and kept by him for about ten days. The people could not tell me who he was, but said they thought he was of high rank, and always rode about in a carriage, in which he kept the girl. I myself saw the girl, who was young and good looking. The Cossacks and Bulgarians had not burned this village, but demolished some of the houses by pulling them down. There were actually Cossacks in the village at the time the Turkish cavalry entered it, but they escaped it without making any resistance.

Money had been given by Bulgars to some gypsies to bury some of the bodies, but the Bulgarians afterwards murdered these people to get back the coin.

No. 163.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 1044.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 4, 1877.

I HAVE informed your Lordship in my despatch No. 1035 of the 3rd instant that I had carried out your instructions in calling the attention of the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to charges made against the Turkish soldiers of killing and mutilating the Russian wounded on the field of battle. It is to be feared that there is truth in some of the statements on this subject, but I desire to call your Lordship's attention, in a spirit of justice, to the conduct of the Russian troops. The Turkish Government main-

tain that the Russian soldiers are guilty of the same proceedings of which they accuse the Turks.

This assertion seems to be supported by evidence which can scarcely be called in question by the Russians. Colonel Wellesley, in his report to your Lordship of the 6th ultimo, whilst denying the atrocities attributed to the Russians, states that "he feels sure that the present war is a war in which little quarter is given or expected on either side."

A "Times" correspondent with the Russian army in the Caucasus, in a letter to that paper published on the 21st ultimo, makes the following remarkable statement:—

"Lastly, as to killing the wounded, no concealment is made of the fact that the rebels" (that is, those who may have joined the Turks) "are shot or bayoneted when taken. I have only heard of one Abkasian prisoner . . . . . nor are there any Turkish prisoners, wounded or not, in the Russian camp in Abkasia. I have, however, made certain that there is a Turkish prisoner at Jugdieli in hospital. It is only just to add that some of the Russian soldiers themselves do not like the idea of killing the wounded."

The representations that have been made by the German Government to the Porte on this subject are no doubt founded on motives of humanity. Would it not be just, as well as humane, to endeavour to prevail upon the Russian Government also to put an end on their part to acts so contrary to the spirit of our age?

Can we be surprised that the Turks, whose country has been invaded and laid waste, should murder the wounded on the field of battle when they see the Russians doing the same? If this war is to be, as Colonel Wellesley states, a war in which no quarter is given on either side, the blame falls rather upon the Russians, who have provoked it, than upon the Turks, who are the victims of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 164.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 1045.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 4, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 994 of the 25th ultimo, in which I informed your Lordship that I had spoken to the Grand Vizier on the subject of the Mingrelian emigrants at Trebizond, who alleged that they had been removed from their country against their will by the Turkish authorities, and that his Highness had promised me that orders should be given to permit their return, I have the honour to inclose copy of a telegram from Vice-Consul Biliotti stating that none of these emigrants have applied directly to be repatriated, but that on their removal to other Turkish ports the Pasha of Trebizond will retain those who have any objections to offer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 164.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Trebizond, September* 4, 1877.

IBRAHIM PASHA, having received no direct application from Mingrelians, ignores there being any willing to return to their country. He has communicated Grand Vizier's order to Committee sitting on Abkazian affairs for its guidance, but hitherto no emigrants have applied (?) to be repatriated. However, on removal of emigrants from Trebizond to other Ottoman ports, the Pasha intends keeping behind those who may have objections to present.

No. 165.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 1046. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 5, 1877.

I HAVE been informed that some months ago the Cretan Insurrectionary Committee offered to proclaim Prince Ypsilanti, Greek Minister at Paris, Prince of Crete, but that the honour was declined. On Prince Ypsilanti's refusal agents were sent by the Committee to the United States to endeavour to obtain an American protectorate over the island apparently without result.

I cannot say how far this information is to be depended upon; but it comes to me from the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 166.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 1047.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 5, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a telegram sent to me by Consul Blunt, informing me that the Christian village of Banoko was believed to be threatened with an attack from the neighbouring Mussulman villages. I at once brought Mr. Blunt's telegram to the notice of the Porte, and a Vizierial order was immediately sent to the Vali of Salonica, by telegraph, to take all necessary measures to protect the Christian inhabitants of the village in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 166.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Adrianople, August* 31, 1877.

AMERICAN Protestant Missionary arrived this evening from Samakov; states that inoffensive Christian inhabitants of Bansko, flourishing village in Nahié of Ruslog, District of Nevrokop, Province of Salonica, is in imminent danger of attack from Turks of surrounding villages. Large Protestant native community there. Desirable Porte should telegraph at once order to Nousret Pasha to afford immediate protection.

No. 167.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 1048.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 5, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1041 of the 4th instant, I am glad to state that the Porte has telegraphed to the Governor of Philippopoli to send to Constantinople the two Gueshoglou, and I have no doubt that their lives are no longer in any danger.

Another young Bulgarian, for whom I interceded at the request of the Principal of Robert College, has been released from prison.

Mr. Blunt informs me that he has found the authorities at Adrianople disposed to receive his unofficial and private representations on behalf of the Bulgarians favourably, and to deal as leniently as possible with those who have been taken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 168.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 1050.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 5*, 1877.

IT is my duty to forward to your Lordship the following statement which I have received from Mr. Consul Blunt:—

"With reference to my despatch No. 99 of the 14th ultimo, I think it right to bring under the notice of your Excellency the following statement made by Ragib Effendi, the Cadi of Kyzanlik, but which I did not think it desirable to embody in the inclosure of the above-mentioned despatch. Ragib Effendi informs me that, whilst Kyzanlik was under the *régime* of the second Bulgarian Commission, he went before the Commission every day, and one day, about the tenth or twelfth day after the capture of the town, one of the members, Gantcho, commonly called 'Yaghdji' (rose-oil merchant), who had been a member of the Turkish Medjliss, observed to him that 'if the English Consul (meaning myself) had remained here till the Russian occupation, as we hoped he would, we would have put him to death (telef edijeghidik).' He added that M. Gaspar Gyldiz, known to be friendly to the Turkish cause, and who accompanied me on my departure, would have shared the same fate. Raghib Effendi's statement is supported by some circumstances which I remarked to Mr. E. Calvert at the time: the evident desire of some Bulgarians, and especially the chief schoolmaster, who is a rabid Slavophil, to inveigle me into remaining at Kyzanlik. Raghib Effendi also says that he was told by a Prussian Polish doctor at Kyzanlik (Radjinski), who speaks Bulgarian, that he had heard many Bulgarians make use of menacing words about me; and Kiamil Agha, a notable of Kyzanlik, now here, states that, on his remarking to M. Jedermann, a German, and agent of the commercial firm of Imsenn and Co., of Constantinople, who knows everyone at Kyzanlik, and who remained there after the Russian occupation, that it was a pity the English Consul had not stayed, he (M. Jederman) replied, 'on the contrary, I am glad, for the Consul's sake, that he left when he did.'"

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 169.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 1052. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 5*, 1877.

IN pursuance of the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram of the 3rd instant, I have communicated the instructions sent by your Lordship to Mr. White on the 23rd ultimo, respecting the preparations made by Servia to attack Turkey, to the Grand Vizier and Server Pasha for submission to the Sultan, and I have further informed them that Her Majesty's Government have requested the French Government to remonstrate with Servia on this subject, and that they have already done so. I have been requested by them to express the Porte's deep gratitude to your Lordship for the steps that you have taken in this matter, to which they attach great importance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 170.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 1053.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 5*, 1877.

I TELEGRAPHED to your Lordship on the 3rd instant that Photiades Bey, with whose services at Athens the Porte does not appear to be entirely satisfied, was to be replaced by Turkhan Bey. It was intended to send him to Rome, but the Italian Government, in consequence of some former complaint against him, have refused to accept him as Turkish Minister. He will, therefore, remain for the present at Athens.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 171.

Vice-Consul A. Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 50.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, August 31*, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch which I have addressed this day to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, in answer to one from his Excellency informing me that the Grand Vizier had said that orders should be given to send back to their country the Mingrelian families which, as mentioned in my despatch No. 46 of the 17th instant to your Lordship, state to have been transported against their will in Turkey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 171.

Vice-Consul A. Biliotti to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Trebizond, August 31*, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt this morning of your Excellency's despatch of the 24th instant. This being Friday, and the anniversary of the Sultan's accession to the Throne, I cannot see the Pasha on business. However, as the first mail after this is only on Thursday next, I think as well to inform your Excellency that having called on Saturday last and yesterday on the Pasha, I spoke to him on the subject of the immigrants, but that nothing of what he said gave me to understand that he had orders to repatriate the Mingrelians. On the contrary, I am induced to believe by his conversation that, if he has such orders, he does not intend to follow them at present.

I spoke on the two occasions mentioned above,

1st. Of the case mentioned in the post scriptum of my despatch of the 23rd instant as an instance of religious pressure, and was told that it was a mistake, the person buried being an old man of 55. I have ascertained, however, and informed him yesterday that there was no error in my report. I had availed myself of my first call to point out that even the case being as he stated, it would be desirable to find the means to avoid in future unfavourable impressions similar to that produced on the occasion, either by separating the Mussulmans from the Christians, or by drawing up a list of the families belonging to each faith. He considered that the first measure would create ill-feeling, but said that the second was about to be carried out, which, however, has not been done hitherto.

2nd. Of the advisability of showing that the immigration was spontaneous by allowing the Mingrelians and the other Christians who said that they had been brought here against their will to return to their country. His answer was that they were free to do so, and that he would even place a steamer at their disposal; but he gave me to understand at the same time that they being married to Abazian women, the latter, as well as their children, might be prevented by the Mussulman Abazians from leaving, which would produce disorders. I pointed out that the Mussulman Abazians had no right to exercise a similar control, even if the Abazian women in question had been Mahommedans, and chose now to follow the religion of their husbands; but that in the present case nearly all the women were, I was told, Christian before their marriage.

3rd. Of the diet of the immigrants, among whom (children especially) diseases were breaking out, he said that orders had been sent by the Porte to give them 2 piastres each per day, but that the distribution of money was difficult before lists of their numbers were made out, which, to my knowledge, has not yet taken place. However, several thousand sheep and goats having been transported lately from Soukoum Kaleh, the immigrants have been able to have lately more substantial food, and their condition in this respect has much improved, as nearly all of them possess flocks.

4th. Of the necessity of adopting sanitary precautions, such as cleaning the streets (some of which are the receptacles of the offal of the town) and the lodgings of the Abazians, these measures being essential in the interest, not only of the latter, but also of the population in general and of the military sick and wounded. The Pasha fully concurred in this suggestion, and has given orders which, as yet, have not been put into execution.

5th. Of the case of two Russian families which came here willingly with the Abazians, and receive rations like the others, but do not enjoy all the desirable freedom, and have four

of their members ill without being attended by a doctor. Of this case, which came to my knowledge on Wednesday, I spoke yesterday, and we sent at once a medical attendant; but, on my saying that they wanted to shift lodgings, being too crowded (eleven persons) in the small room now assigned to them, the Pasha objected on the ground that some of the women were Abazians. I remarked to the Pasha that they are Christians, and that I could not see the case in the same light as himself. He replied that he wanted to make no change for the present from fear of disorders, but that he would arrange everything after he embarks part of the Abazians on board an English and a Greek steamer, which have just been chartered at Constantinople for the purpose. He has allowed, however, two Russian women and two children to go and live where they liked.

The Pasha seems to be well disposed, so far as he is concerned personally, but I believe that he is influenced by the Abazian Chiefs. He may also know better than I do the danger which may be incurred by adopting certain measures, which appear, however, to be of the most equitable character. Nevertheless, I cannot help pointing out that Abazian seems to mean for everybody here, Mussulman; and that, to prevent Mingrelians or Christian Abazians from being subject to pressure, distinct and severe orders must be given by the Porte, and these carried out to the letter by the authorities of Trebizond.

If an unlawful intervention of the Mussulman Abazians is really apprehended, they might be embarked the first, leaving behind such of their tribe whose cases being not quite clear, have some objection to depart for other parts of the Empire.

The Pasha intends to embark first those living in the schools, then those in the mosques, and lastly those in private houses. This is fair enough, but it does not attain the object just pointed out by me; Mussulmans, Mingrelians, and Christians residing together, some of the latter, who want to return to their country may be among the first embarked for other Turkish ports.

I have already mentioned in one of my preceding despatches that there are no Christians in the Committee sitting on Abazian affairs. If this element be withdrawn, or, still better, if an officer of energy and tact be sent immediately as Special Commissioner for the Caucasian immigrants at Trebizond, of whom there are now about 12,000, much evil may perhaps be avoided. The duties which the Governor-General has now to perform are too heavy for a man.

I shall send your Excellency, when I obtain it, a detailed list of the number of Caucasian emigrants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 172.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 12.*)

(No. 60. Political.)
Canea, Crete, August 31, 1877.

My Lord,

I REGRET not to be able to give a more favourable report of the general state of affairs in Crete since I had the honour of addressing your Lordship in my despatches Nos. 57 and 58.

The Cretan Committee in Apokorona has been prolonging its sittings in order to allow of the deputies from Selino and Kissamos to attach their signatures to the petition. But the agitation reigning among the Mussulmans of those districts has had the effect of convincing the Christian inhabitants that it would be imprudent to give any fresh motive for alarm by sending deputies to the Committee, and they have finally declined to have anything to do with it. A body of seventy leading Christian Seliniotes waited on the Pasha a few days ago and informed his Excellency that though they approved the object desired to be attained by the petition they were resolved not to sign it in order to give no pretext to their Moslem neighbours for attributing sinister designs to them. They went on to say that the Mussulmans of their district were beginning to follow the example of those of Kissamos, and were transporting their effects to the coast in order to come round to Canea. They protested that they were not responsible for the movement as none among them desired to do the least harm to their Moslem brethren, and as proof of their peaceable intentions they offered to leave in their hands as hostages the families of some of their leading men, and they ended by declaring their resolution not to return to their homes until the Pasha had taken effectual measures to prevent the departure of the Mahommedan population. As his Excellency expects deputations having a similar object from other places he has promised to give them an answer in a

day or two. Deputations having the same end in view had already come from Kissamos and the large and warlike village of Lakos, and I have to-day seen a copy of a letter written by the principal Christians of Kissamos to the Committee in Apokorona, in which they declare their sympathy with the object of their meeting, but decline to send any deputies for fear of augmenting the fears of the Mussulmans. Similar motives have prevented the inhabitants of Candia, Canea, and some districts round Candia from joining in the movement, and there is little doubt that the members of the Committee, seeing the decision arrived at by these districts, will shortly disperse.

Their dispersion will have a most tranquillizing effect, as the principal cause alleged by the Moslems for their emigration is that the gathering of Christian Chiefs in the mountains has always been the precursor of insurrection. There are now, however, unmistakable signs that the revolutionary tendency which might have existed has given place to more prudent considerations, the principal signs being the abstention of so many districts from any part in the demonstration in Apokorona, and the desire manifested by the Christians themselves to seek the protection of the Government by taking refuge in the town. I mentioned in a previous communication that Samih Pasha would not allow the latter to enter, but his Excellency has now removed the prohibition, and several Christian families from the surrounding villages, instead of decamping to the mountains, are now in Canea. Their homesteads have suffered much from the immigrant Moslem peasantry, who allow their flocks to feed in their gardens and vineyards, and who have, in a few instances, taken forcible possession of their houses.

In seeking to explain the reasons which have influenced the flight of the Mussulmans from their homes, it is becoming increasingly evident that it is mainly the work of a small clique of fanatical Mussulmans in Canea. A man is now in prison who was convicted of having, the day after the murder of the two shepherds, warned the inhabitants of several villages that their only safety was in flight, as the Christians intended occupying the roads and murdering all the Moslems. A general stampede was the consequence, and such was the terror inspired that Samih Pasha told me that when he set out from Canea to arrest the flight, the villagers he met on the road begged him to kill them there and then, for that anything was preferable to being butchered by the Christians. These very persons now confess that designing men had practised on their fears, for that they have since seen nothing to warrant their alarm. In one of the deserted villages, with the people of which I am personally acquainted from a summer's sojourn among them, they told me that they had no complaint to make against the few Christian families dwelling among them, to whom they had even committed the safe-keeping of their houses and cattle. The Christians, indeed, are so anxious to avoid any cause of offence, that no single instance has been recorded of robbery or injury done in any of the abandoned villages. The motives of the fanatical clique on whom rests the suspicion of counselling the flight of the peasantry can be surmised, but without a searching official inquiry are incapable of proof. Elated by the national military successes, they are supposed to believe that if the Christians could be induced to revolt, deprived as they are of all help from abroad, inadequately armed, and dependent on the towns for their supply of food, they could not hope to resist the Zeibeks and Bashi-Bazouks, whom the authorities have sometimes darkly hinted as ready to be let loose upon them; and that thus an opportunity would be afforded of effectually crushing their hereditary enemies, and of suppressing the Organic Law of Crete, which the fanatical class of Mussulmans so greatly dislike, because it professes to create equality between the two communities. Samih Pasha, to whom I was to-day communicating my suspicions that certain Mussulmans were at the bottom of the migratory movement, declared himself also of my opinion that they had purposely augmented the alarm naturally created by the murder of the shepherds and the gathering in Apokorona for sinister purposes of their own, which he did not define. His Excellency further told me that he was urging the Porte to allow him to proclaim martial law in the island, a measure I ventured to deprecate, because, in a country where party feeling runs so high, it would be a dangerous weapon to entrust to an administration, many members of which are blinded by narrow-minded bigotry.

The mutual relations of the religious parties have been further envenomed by the alleged discovery of a plot to assassinate a French doctor who had made himself obnoxious to the Moslems by his undisguised contempt for some of their religious prejudices; and only last night a Christian was stabbed in the back by a Mussulman. No motive has been assigned for the crime beyond that of religious animosity, for the Christian, whose wound is not fatal, had no personal knowledge of his would-be assassin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

P.S.—I have the honour to add that Her Majesty's ship "Torch" arrived here on the 28th instant, and is anchored in Suda Bay. The French Government has a ship also on this station, the gun-vessel "Renard."

T. B. S.

No. 173.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 99. Political.)

Scutari, September 1, 1877.

My Lord,

I THINK it right to state to your Lordship that I have ascertained that most of the Montenegrin heads brought back to Podgoritza, after the fight at Beri, reported in my despatch, Political, No. 97 of the 27th ultimo, were cut off by the Roman Catholic mountaineers, forming part of the Turkish force of Bashi-Bazouks.

On expressing my regret to the Turkish Generals that decapitation of the dead should continue after the severe orders sent on the subject by the Porte, they told me that they had found out that the Albanian irregulars would not fight if it were attempted to prevent them practising the customs which have been handed down to them from times immemorial. The Generals added that at the present moment their regular force is not sufficiently strong to enable them to dispense with the services of the mountaineers.

I have further ascertained that the Montenegrins also have been recently cutting off heads; and that on the 19th ultimo, when they took by assault the last Kulé, in the vicinity of Nichsich, they decapitated the dead bodies of six Mohammedans.

I have not thought it expedient to make a representation on the matter to Prince Nicholas, as I know his Highness does all in his power to prevent the commission of barbarous acts; but, like the Turkish generals, he has to study the exigencies of the moment, and cannot afford to curb in a violent manner the ardour of his wild subjects.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 174.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 100. Political.)

Scutari, September 2, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 21st ultimo, I telegraphed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, that the Governor-General had informed me that some vessels were cruizing in a suspicious manner between Durazzo and Antivari, and that one of them had shown the Greek flag.

Mustafa Pasha afterwards told me that two of these vessels had since landed three cannons, and a cargo of ammunition, near the Austrian port of Budua.

From a source that is not Turkish, I have learnt that a large quantity of ammunition and four cannons were landed on or about the 21st ultimo, on Austrian territory, but close under the guns of the frontier Turkish fort, in the district of Spiza; and that about 1,000 Montenegrins came down to the beach and carried both cannons and ammunition into the Karmintza.

I am also told that the guns have been sent by Russia, and that they were allowed to pass through Austria as far as Trieste, but were refused embarkation for Cattaro. The guns have been anxiously expected for some time past in Montenegro, as they are of heavy calibre; and it is hoped they will lead to the speedy surrender of Nichsich.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 175.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No 101. Political.)

Scutari, September 2, 1877.

My Lord,

CONSIDERABLE anxiety is felt by the Turkish military authorities as to the power of Nichsich to withstand the Montenegrins until succour can once more be sent to it. They would gladly leave the place to take its chance of defending itself did they not fear that its fall would supply the Montenegrins with a park of artillery—about thirty rifled cannons—which would place Spuz and Podgoritza at their mercy. Hence the renewed concentration of troops, amounting to about forty battalions, around the Principality.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 176.

Acting Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 54. Political.)

Salonica, September 5, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith (Inclosure No. 1), for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of the 1st September to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting the celebration of the anniversary of the present Sultan's accession; Mr. Vice-Consul Suter's report of arms being given to the Mahommedans, and taken from the Christians at Larissa; his account of military stores landed in Thessaly, and of certain excesses committed by the regular troops.

I also report the departure of 200 more raw recruits for Dédéaghatch, the port nearest to Adrianople, and how these last are to be utilized.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure in No. 176.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, September 1, 1877.

Sir,

THE anniversary of the accession of His Imperial Majesty Hamid Khan was celebrated here yesterday (Friday, the 31st ultimo) with as much pomp as the case admitted, by the firing of salutes, &c. The Vali received the Consuls in uniform, and they were also in uniform by his express desire previously notified to them in writing, and the band of the National Guard played in the court of the Palace.

I have the honour to report to your Excellency that Mr. Suter writes to me from Larissa, under date August 29, that "the Ottoman authorities have handed over the arms which were lately brought from Constantinople to such of the respectable Mahomedans of Larissa and other parts of the country as they have thought advisable, with portions of ammunition for each." This has been done after that the incident which induced them to do so (the attempt of the filibusters) had altogether failed; and, so great is the fear entertained of this real or pretended danger, that "domiciliary visits have been made in the Christian houses, search for arms effected, and, when found, forcibly seized."

The following is the amount of military stores abandoned by the filibusters in their flight across the frontier:—

419 United States Springfield muskets with bayonets, 65 cases cartridges, 30 cases gunpowder, 6 cases percussion caps, some thousand okes of pig-lead.

Last week the Ottoman steam transport "Malakoff" landed at Volo—

165 cases, containing 3,300 muskets, 240 boxes cartridges; and, after having taken in 7,000 sacks of flour, went on to Antivari.

Mr. Suter also states that "great complaints are made of the misconduct of the regular troops who were on duty recently in the villages about Ayah (Campo). They maltreated and robbed the Christians, entered and carried off from the churches some

articles of value; and, although such acts were undeniable and apparent, from the fact of the public sale of many of the stolen articles, no redress whatever is afforded for any of them."

Here 200 of the new levies have sailed in one of the Turkish steam transports for Dedé Agatch. These men, and those who are to follow, will not be formed into regiments, but will be dressed in uniform, and employed to fill up vacancies in such regiments as have suffered most in the armies about the Danube, but they know nothing whatever of drill, and are, to all intents and purposes, the same as the Bashi-Bazouks on foot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 177.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 509.) *Foreign Office, September* 12, 1877.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve the language which you used in speaking to the Grand Vizier respecting the excesses committed by the Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks upon the Christians, in the conversation reported in your Excellency's telegraphic despatch No. 366 of the 24th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 178.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

Athens, September 11, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE have had an interview with Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs with reference to your telegram of yesterday, and I have fulfilled your instructions. M. Tricoupi begs me to tell your Lordship that Greece cannot give up right conceded by Protocol of 30th August, 1832, of having an army or of declaring war. He says that Turkey has no just cause for offence, and with regard to Greek army says it is far from being ready to take the field.

No. 179.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

Belgrade, September 11, 1877, 10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING sent to Therapia to-night:—

"Your telegram of this morning received. There is no doubt that Prince Milan and his Government are fully committed to join Russia. If they have not commenced war yet it is because they require funds and arms, but they are getting ready, though it is impossible to say how soon they will commence the disloyal aggression.

"A Russian Military Attaché arrived at Belgrade."

No. 180.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

St. Petersburgh, September 12, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informed me to-day that official reports mention that an English gun-boat was at Sulina, with two Turkish monitors, which latter were

occupied in taking soundings. The Russian Military Commander sent an officer to request Commander of English gun-boat to change his position, or he could not be responsible for any accident which might arise out of military operations.

No. 181.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

St. Petersburgh, September 12, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

GRAND DUKE telegraphs, dated Poradin, September 10, 10·40 A.M.:—

"Our batteries bombarded Plevna all yesterday at a distance of 600 to 700 fathoms. Sortie by Turks repulsed with great loss. Artillery fire heavy during the night. All quiet elsewhere."

No. 182.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

St. Petersburgh, September 12, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

GRAND DUKE telegraphs, dated Poradin, September 11, 5·20 A.M.:—

"Bombardment by siege and field pieces continued all yesterday. Our left flank commanded by General Scobeleff occupied yesterday a height commanding Turkish fortified camp and Plevna town. Turkish opposition feeble. Our losses insignificant."

No. 183.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 510.) *Foreign Office, September* 12, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 990 of the 24th ultimo, reporting a conversation with the Grand Vizier as to the protest made by the German Ambassador against the alleged violations of the Geneva Convention by Turkish troops, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve of your having urged his Highness to cause an immediate investigation to be made into these allegations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 184.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 511.) *Foreign Office, September* 12, 1877.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve of your having urged upon the Grand Vizier the importance of coming to a satisfactory understanding with the Christians of Crete in the terms reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 991, Confidential, of the 24th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 185.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 512.) *Foreign Office, September* 12, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 995 of the 26th ultimo, I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government approve of your having advised the

Porte to deal leniently with the Bulgarians accused of having taken part with the Russians during the recent advance made by them to the south of the Balkans.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 186.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 514.)
Foreign Office, September 12, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 999 of the 27th ultimo, forwarding a narrative by Mr. Brophy of the events that have occurred in his district since the Russian invasion of Roumelia, and I have to request you to convey to Mr. Brophy my approval of his proceedings, and my thanks for his interesting report.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 187.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 77. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, August 17, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the state of siege has been proclaimed in the Sandjaks of Bihach, Banialuka, Travnik, and the Herzegovina.

With reference to my despatch No. 75, Political, of the 8th instant, I have to report that official information has been received here that Despotovich has been arrested at Drenovac, in Dalmatia, and is to be relegated to Linz. A few insurgents are also said to have been disarmed on Austrian territory, but I can obtain no intelligence regarding the 3,000 which the Turks profess to have driven across the frontier. The eleven missing Turkish soldiers were also arrested beyond the frontier, but have been sent back.

Efficient measures have now been taken for the protection of the Brood road, which I reported in my despatch No. 65, Political, of the 13th ultimo to be infested by a band of brigands. Between Maglai and Brood, the unsafe portion of the road, nine guard-houses have been established, each held by twenty-five men of the reserve force. Strong patrols continually pass to and fro between these guard-houses, and there is half a battalion of troops stationed at Derbent.

It is reported here that Servia is making fresh military preparations along her western frontier. I hardly think, however, that she is likely at present to attempt another invasion of Bosnia.

No authentic intelligence has been received here lately regarding Nichsich. Preparations are being leisurely carried on at Mostar for the relief of the place, and Vely Pasha has promised to send down seven other battalions from Bosnia, which will bring up the total regular force under Zeki Pasha to twenty battalions. Many of these, however, are much reduced in strength, and probably the twenty battalions would not muster an effective of more than 8,000 fighting men. Besides these, all the available foot zaptiehs in the Herzegovina—probably not more than 200—have been collected at Mostar, and are to accompany the troops, and the Governor-General of Bosnia promised a contingent of irregular troops from this district of about 4,000 men, as reported in my despatch No. 76, Political, of the 10th instant.

Zeki Pasha does not, however, seem to consider this force sufficient, and I believe he is correct, for the 4,000 men from the district of Serajevo, should anything like that number ever march, are not likely to be of much service against the Montenegrins. They go most unwillingly, are badly armed, and comprise among their number many who have probably never handled a weapon before in their lives.

Hafiz Pasha, the commander of the troops in the district of Novi-Bazaar, is said to be attempting a diversion by way of Bielopolje with fifteen or sixteen battalions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 188.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 78. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, August 28, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch of the 21st instant from Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper, announcing his arrival at Banjaluka and reporting the burning by the insurgents of the Ivanjoka railway station and the measures to be taken to clear the Kozara Hills of insurgents.

When I passed Ivanjoka in May last, on my journey from Novi to Banjaluka, the railway station was held by a detachment of cavalry, but an Austrian woman who kept a tavern close by, probably the Christian woman alluded to by Mr. Cooper, told me that the detachment was frequently away on patrol duty, and that then the insurgents descended from the hills and came in considerable numbers to her tavern. At that time it was estimated that there were about 250 insurgents in the Kozara Hills.

His Excellency Mahzar Pasha assures me that the occupation of Cerni Potok and the flight of Despotovich has done much to break up the insurrection in Bosnia, and that nowhere now are there insurgent bands of more than fifteen or twenty men. I think, however, myself, that too much importance has been given to Despotovich. He exercised a certain control over the insurgents, but he has decidedly not distinguished himself as a leader, and considerable discontent was at times manifested against his inactivity. His arrest by the Austrians has nevertheless given great satisfaction to the Turks in this country.

According to the Dalmatian authorities the insurgents that fled over the frontier when defeated at Cerni Potok did not exceed 140 in number. They have all been sent to the island of Lesina, but the Chiefs, it is said, are to be interned in the German provinces of Austria.

His Excellency Mahzar Pasha also informs me, and the story is in the main confirmed by a report from the Austrian Vice-Consul to the Consul General here, M. Theodorovich, that a plot has been discovered at Livno for the destruction of the town. It appears that an insurgent named Simon Savich, formerly with Despotovich, arrived at Livno in female attire, and was received in the house of one Todor Yeftanovich, a Christian merchant. The authorities being informed of this, made a sudden descent on the house, and discovered there a breech-loading rifle, and, according to the Governor-General, a supply of dynamite, according to the Austrian Vice-Consul, 5 okes (14½ lbs.) of gunpowder, but Simon Savich could not be found. A cordon of troops was drawn round the quarter of the town in which the house stood, but for ten days Savich eluded all search. Finally, one night, the Kaimakam, Abdullah Effendi, having been informed by a woman that he was at that moment hidden in a tree close by, fired at him from his window and killed him. This act is much to be regretted, as, whatever the deserts of the man, it is sure to give rise to recrimination, which will not, it must be acknowledged, be unmerited. Several fires are said to have broken out lately at Livno, but were extinguished before they had caused much damage. It is supposed now that Simon Savich was the incendiary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 188.

Vice-Consul Cooper to Acting Consul Freeman.

Banjaluka, Bosnia, August 21, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report my arrival at Banjaluka on the 18th instant. The next day I had an interview with the Mustasarif, Calih Pasha, who asked me to accompany him to Ivanjska.

On the 12th instant a band of insurgents, numbering, according to various reports, from 60 to 200, burnt the station and two houses at Ivanjoka, on the Novi-Banjaluka railway, some twelve miles north-west of Banjaluka.

Yesterday, the 20th, I accompanied the Mustasarif and Brigadier Ali Pasha, who has lately arrived from Montenegro, to Ivanjoka, where we met the officer commanding troops and Kaimakam from Prjedor.

The station was on an exposed spur of the Kozara Hills, and the country round is very open. Only four houses stood near the station. Two of these, belonging to Mussul-

mans, were burnt, the other two, belonging to Christians, are untouched. The goods magazine belonging to the railway company, which stands some 200 yards from the station, was not damaged by the incendiaries.

Zaptiehs formerly guarded this station, but the post was withdrawn early in the year. No one opposed the incendiaries, and it is stated that the property of a Christian woman occupying one of the Turkish houses was removed before the house was burnt.

The Beys maintain that a band of insurgents are in the neighbourhood, and state that they know where they are to be found.

I believe the Mustasarif, who appears to doubt the existence of insurgents in this neighbourhood, has concerted measures with the officer commanding the troops to form a chain round the supposed hiding-places of the insurgents in the Kozara Hills; this chain is then to converge, thoroughly beating the country, with a view to determine whether the incendiaries really exist as a band of insurgents, or are only marauders from the villages, who, engaged in peaceful avocations during the day, take to pillaging at night.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

No. 189.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 217.)
Athens, September 4, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 3rd instant, M. Tricoupi, Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs, has stated to me, firstly, that the Government of Her Majesty may assure the Porte that the Hellenic Government will not attack Turkey at present, but that, by such a declaration, the Government of His Majesty does not mean to give a pledge for the future; for Greece, like every independent State, must always reserve her freedom of action according to circumstances. Secondly, that the Hellenic Government will pledge not to connive at, but will not pledge to discourage, insurrectionary movements, although they are doing so, and intend to do so, so long as it is in the interest of the Greek Government to follow that policy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 190.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 218.)
Athens, September 4, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I had an interview this morning with M. Tricoupi.

I commenced by stating to his Excellency that, judging from information recently received by Her Majesty's Government from Mr. Layard, there appeared to be a great deal of irritation at the Porte at the present attitude of Greece. I then communicated to him the substance of your Lordship's telegram, and I also read him Mr. Stuart's despatches Nos. 203 and 204, to which reference is therein made; and I asked him whether Her Majesty's Government might assure the Porte that Greece would not attack Turkey or connive at endeavours to promote insurrections in the Turkish Provinces bordering on Greece.

M. Tricoupi stated that what Mr. Stuart had reported in his despatches Nos. 203 and 204 was perfectly correct; that there is no intention on the part of the Hellenic Government to attack Turkey at present, and that Her Majesty's Government might assure the Porte that the Greek Government does not intend to attack Turkey at present, but that the Government of Greece cannot give any pledge for the future, for, as an independent State, Greece has the right to make war if she chose, and that if Turkey were to give her cause for offence, she might find it necessary to resort to force in defence of her dignity or of her interests.

With regard to the Greek Provinces in Turkey, M. Tricoupi stated that the Greek Government was not conniving at promoting insurrections there, and that they would pledge themselves not to do so, for such an act on the part of Greece would be in violation of her international duties and engagements; but that the Greek Government could not

pledge themselves to discourage insurrection, although they were actually doing so, and intended to do so, so long as it was in their opinion in their interest to follow that policy.

I then asked M. Tricoupi if he thought the statements he had made would be deemed quite satisfactory; that the reservation "at present" had already been commented upon by Mr. Layard in one of his recently published despatches, and that there was evidently very much irritation at the Porte; that the Porte had suffered from hostile attacks from Servia, Montenegro, and Roumania, neighbouring States, and that it was not unnatural that she should therefore take umbrage at the presence of a large body of Greek troops on the northern frontiers of Greece; and that I should be very glad indeed if I could say something on his part to allay the irritation.

M. Tricoupi replied that he could not admit that his present statement should be considered as unsatisfactory by the Porte, as Greece could not be required to take engagements beyond her international duties, and that he did not consider the Turkish Government had any reason to take exception to the formation of an army of 30,000 men, which was not in point of numbers out of proportion to the amount of the population.

In conclusion, I think I may say that the Greek Government is, under present circumstances, desirous of living at peace with that of His Majesty the Sultan.

I have shown the draft of this despatch to M. Tricoupi, and he tells me that it rightly interprets his ideas and policy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 191.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 220.)
Athens, September 4, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that Photiades Bey, the Turkish Minister at this Court, informed me to-day that he is of opinion that Greece will remain quiet so long as Turkey is victorious, and that the Russians are to the north of the Balkan range.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 192.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 221.)
Athens, September 5, 1877.

My Lord,

M. TRICOUPI informed me yesterday that he has received, through the Greek Minister at Constantinople, an order issued by the Porte prohibiting the entrance after dark of ships into the Gulf of Arta, and he also stated that the Turks have placed a larger garrison than is necessary for the occupation of Fort Punta, situated on the southern side of the entrance to the Gulf of Arta, and that they are also throwing up entrenchments at a distance of a kilomètre from Fort Punta.

M. Tricoupi considers these acts as a violation of Article VI of the Treaty of July 9, 1832, which is as follows:—

"Le Fort de Punta, ainsi qu'il a été dit plus haut, devant rester à la Porte, pour compléter la défense de Prévesa et pour mieux garantir la sûreté de son commerce, il ne pourra s'y trouver qu'une garnison suffisante à l'occupation de ce poste; il s'entend que les Autorités Ottomanes n'apporteront aucun empêchement au passage des bâtiments Grecs, et sauf les droits de douane et autres qui seraient dûs à la Sublime Porte, dans le cas où les bâtiments relâcheraient à Punta, Prévesa et autres échelles Turques du Golfe d'Arta, elles ne leur demanderont rien pour le passage."

I said with reference to the complaint that the Turks were increasing the garrison at Punta, that doubtless the Turks were alarmed at the concentration of Greek troops in the camp at Vonitza, but M. Tricoupi replied that there was no camp there but at Agrinium, and that he really did not think the Turkish Government had much ground for alarm, as the total number of Greek troops actually on the frontier did not exceed 5,000 or 6,000 men, whereas, he said, from what he could learn, the Turks had 20,000 men.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 193.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September 13.)

Sublime Porte, le 5 Septembre, 1877.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

EN me référant à mes communications télégraphiques concernant la situation en Grèce, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint pour votre information, les télégrammes échangés à ce sujet entre mon Département et la Légation Impériale à Athènes.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SERVER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 193.

Server Pasha to Photiades Bey.

Le 22 Août, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

ENVIRON 120 brigands Hellènes venus de Grèce ont attaqué le village Musulman de Pachali en Thessalie, qu'ils ont tout entier réduit en cendres après y avoir massacré bon nombre d'habitants, hommes et femmes.

Dans la journée de Dimanche dernier neuf barques venues également de la Grèce ont débarqué dans un village Chrétien, non-loin de Larisse, une forte bande de malfaiteurs. D'autres bandits se préparent, d'après nos informations, à envahir notre territoire du côté d'Armyros et de Domeka, ainsi que le littoral situé en face des îles Ioniennes. Déjà quatre-vingts brigands ont fait leur apparition à Daoutlou, localité sise à proximité de Domeka.

Nos autorités ont immédiatement pris toutes les mesures dictées par les circonstances; mais l'impression que ces faits ont produit sur le Gouvernement Impérial n'en a pas moins été des plus pénibles. Il s'en préoccupe d'autant plus qu'un des motifs mis tour à tour en avant par le Cabinet d'Athènes et par son Ministre à Constantinople pour expliquer la concentration des forces Helléniques sur nos frontières consiste dans la nécessité où se trouverait la Grèce d'empêcher l'incursion des bandes de malfaiteurs d'un territoire à l'autre.

Assurément le Gouvernement Hellénique ne voudra pas alléguer qu'il se trouve aujourd'hui, malgré ses préparatifs militaires, dans l'impossibilité de réprimer des incursions et des déprédations de ce genre, et dès lors la gravité de pareils faits n'en devient pas plus évidente. Je prie donc votre Excellence de demander à M. Tricoupi comment il considère ce qui arrive sur nos frontières, et quelles mesures le Gouvernement Hellénique compte adopter pour prévenir un état de choses dont la responsabilité retombe incontestablement sur le Gouvernement Hellénique.

Inclosure 2 in No. 193.

Photiades Bey to Server Pasha.

Athènes, le 24 Août, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

RECU télégramme du 22 Août. Les démarches que j'avais faites auprès du Cabinet d'Athènes au sujet de l'incursion des bandes en Thessalie sont conformes aux instructions y contenues. Le Gouvernement de Tricala m'ayant fourni de plus amples détails sur la bande qui a commis des cruautés à Pachali, j'ai fait auprès de M. Tricoupi une nouvelle démarche qui, suivant un télégramme de notre Consul à Lamie, a abouti à l'arrestation par les autorités Helléniques d'une vingtaine de ces malfaiteurs et à la restitution à un officier Ottoman du bétail enlevé.

M. Tricoupi soutient que le Gouvernement Hellénique a donné en cette circonstance des preuves de la sincérité de son désir d'entretenir des rapports de bon voisinage avec l'Empire.

Inclosure 3 in No. 193.

Server Pasha to Photiades Bey.

Le 23 Août, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

PAR votre télégramme du 24 Août, vous m'avez fait part des assurances que M. Tricoupi vous a données sur le désir de son Gouvernement d'entretenir des rapports de bon voisinage avec nous. La Sublime Porte est, de son côté, non moins désireuse de conserver à ces rapports le caractère le plus cordial; mais les faits ne répondent malheureusement pas aux déclarations du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Hellénique: en effet, les bandes qui ont franchi la frontière n'ont pas encore été rappelées; leurs chefs restent impunis; de nouvelles bandes s'organisent et se forment librement; des volontaires continuent à être clandestinement recrutés en masse parmi nos populations, ce qui constitue une violation flagrante du droit international; les Comités Révolutionnaires s'agitent avec une activité toujours croissante sans que l'autorité use du droit que lui confère la Constitution même du pays pour sévir contre des menées qui touchent directement aux intérêts communs des deux Etats; et, enfin, bien que la liberté de la presse en Grèce assure aux journaux une indépendance complète, les organes officieux du Cabinet laissent parler ces feuilles sans rien dire contre leurs écarts de langage qui surexcitent profondément l'esprit public.

Tant que cet état de choses durera, le Gouvernement Impérial considérera le repos de ses provinces limitrophes comme sérieusement menacé.

Je vous prie d'entretenir de ce qui précède M. Tricoupi, qui voudra bien, je n'en doute pas, prendre des mesures en conséquence.

Inclosure 4 in No. 193.

Photiades Bey to Server Pasha.

Athènes, le 29 Août, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

RECU télégramme No. spécial 167.

Dans un entretien que je viens d'avoir avec le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Grèce, celui-ci m'a donné les explications suivantes sur les points y relatés:—Il n'admet pas que des bandes soient parties de la Grèce pour nos provinces limitrophes, à l'exception des dix individus débarqués clandestinement à Aghia malgré les mesures prises par le Gouvernement Hellénique. Il établit, de l'aveu du Gouverneur de Tricala, que les événements regrettables de Pachali étaient l'effet de la vengeance des habitants du village voisin, et affirme que les auteurs de ces événements continuent à être arrêtés et poursuivis à leur entrée sur le territoire Hellénique. Il déclare qu'aucun recrutement de volontaires ne se fait parmi nos populations, le Gouvernement Hellénique ayant décidé de ne pas admettre dans son armée les sujets Ottomans qui demanderaient à s'enrôler. M. Tricoupi m'a renouvelé ses assurances au sujet de l'attitude des Comités en me confirmant qu'ils demeuraient inactifs sous la surveillance du Gouvernement. Quant à la presse Hellénique, il m'a fait observer que son langage, à l'exception de quelques feuilles stipendiées, était assez correct à notre égard.

No. 194.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 13.)

Vienna, September 10, 1877.

(No. 726.)

My Lord,

OFFICIAL intelligence has been received here of the capitulation of Nichsich, the garrison having been allowed, after delivering up their arms, to retreat to Gasko.

As the Montenegrins have left only 3,000 men to watch the Duga Pass, and have directed the greater part of their forces towards the Albanian frontier, with a view to the conquest of the districts on that side of the Principality which were awarded to them by the Conference, it is not believed at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs that they will attempt to advance into the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 195.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September* 13.)

Constantinople, le 11 *Septembre*, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

JE vous transmets ci-après, pour votre information, le télégramme suivant que je viens de recevoir de Photiades Bey :—

"Le Gouvernement Allemand vient de vendre 2,000,000 de cartouches à la Grèce; 800 caisses contenant plus de 18,000 fusils Chassepots sont arrivées au Pirée; le Gouvernement Hellénique a pris la décision de dépenser 14,000,000 de drachmes pour achat de cuirassés et de torpilles; le recrutement de 5,000 matelots a déjà commencé pour la Marine Royale; les jeunes officiers envoyés en Europe pour y compléter leurs études sont rappelés à Athènes."

No. 196.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September* 13.)

Constantinople, le 12 *Septembre*, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

IL est arrivé à diverses reprises que des bâtiments legers de la Marine Russe, étant parvenus à tromper la surveillance des croiseurs Impériaux, ont réussi à franchir la ligne du blocus et à s'emparer de navires de commerce Ottomans dépourvus de tous moyens de défense; mais, au lieu de conduire leurs prises dans les ports Russes, ils les détruisent systématiquement. Ce procédé est condamné par la plupart des auteurs qui ont écrit sur le droit maritime en temps de guerre; mais ceux-là même qui professent une opinion contraire ne laissent pas que de reconnaître que la destruction des navires de commerce capturés doit être considérée comme un acte regrettable et peu en rapport avec les adoucissements que les nations civilisées cherchent à apporter aux maux de la guerre. Je crois donc devoir vous signaler ce procédé destructif de la Russie, qui n'est justifié par aucune nécessité militaire et qui n'atteint que des innocents. Si le Gouvernement Impérial voulait imiter ces déplorables errements, les moyens de dévastation ne lui feraient pas défaut, et ses forces maritimes pourraient facilement détruire par le fer et la flamme les habitations et les biens des particuliers non-combattants; mais il s'est abstenu jusqu'à présent de tout acte de rigueur non commandé par le besoin impérieux des opérations militaires.

No. 197.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 13.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)

Bucharest, September 13, 1877, 10·30 A.M.

IT is probable that Plevna cannot be taken unless regularly invested.

No. 198.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 13.)

(No. 306. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, September 13, 1877.

I AM informed very confidentially that the Turkish Government is sending two small ironclads to Prevesa and torpedoes to be placed in passage into the Gulf of Arta.

Torpedoes will be also placed at Volo, and the town will be fortified and troops sent there.

Torpedoes are also to be laid at Sulina in order that the Turkish ships there may be withdrawn.

No. 199.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 3.)

(Telegraphic.)

Bucharest, September 13, 1877, 11·30 A.M.

MY Austrian colleague has no tidings of the missing bag, he is doing utmost to recover it.

The Russian military authorities have promised to use every endeavour to recover the bag should it have fallen into the hands of soldiers.

Roumanian police is thoroughly disorganized in that district.

No. 200.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 14.)

(No. 37. Political.)

Adrianople, September 4, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship the copy of a despatch, with its inclosure, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relative to disorders committed by Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks, and the measures taken by the civil and military authorities of this vilayet to repress them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 200.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, September 4, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 30th ultimo, I beg to inclose herewith a Report from Vice-Consul Dupuis, giving particulars of the further disorders which I mentioned as having been committed by Circassians in five other Greek villages in this neighbourhood.

Ahmed Vefyk Pasha is devising measures, in concert with the military authorities, for the security of life and property in the vilayet generally, and with a special view to the protection of the Christian villages. Djemil Pasha, the Military Commandant here, has furnished from the troops in garrison all the cavalry which can be spared for patrolling the country around Adrianople, and Suleiman Pasha, the Commander-in-chief of the army in the Balkans, has ordered all Circassians and Bashi-Bazouk stragglers to be seized, and such of them as cannot give a satisfactory account of themselves to be imprisoned.

The above order has begun to be carried out, and a large number of vagabond Circassians and Zeibeks have already been arrested. They are to undergo five months' imprisonment, after which they will be drafted into the army for a period of three years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 200.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Consul Blunt.

Adrianople, September 2, 1877.

Sir,

HAVING at your request visited the Greek Archbishop to ascertain as to the truth of the disorders alleged to have been committed by Circassians in the Greek villages of Karakassim and Ohpasha, as reported in my despatches Nos. 44 and 46, I beg to acquaint you that his Eminency not only corroborated those disorders, but he also mentioned and gave me the names of five other villages, namely, Derwandsha, Suluf, Sharahlar, and Arslan, in the district of Ouzun Kuper, and Thorrukkeny, and Mustafa-Pasha, which had likewise been recently intruded upon and more or less pillaged by those roving vagabonds, with the exception of Suluf, which, owing to some resistance having been shown by the Mussulman population, did not suffer much.

His Eminency read from a letter he had received from Mustafa-Pasha that on Monday last, the Greek Assumption Day, the congregation of the church of that place and the priest during the service were greatly alarmed and took to flight by the sudden appearance among them of some armed Zeibeks, who shouted to the priest to give them money, and firing off their pistols.

At Arslan Circassians assailed the church door, but did not succeed in forcing an entrance.

Beyond pillaging and causing the utmost alarm, it does not appear that any lives were sacrificed, nor was anybody ill-treated during those incursions.

These circumstances having been brought to the knowledge of Ibrahim Pasha, he promised the Archbishop he would telegraph to the Kaïmakam of Mustafa-Pasha to arrest the Zeibeks.

I was also informed that the Circassians who committed the above disorders are the followers of Dessam Bey, of Muratli, near Rodosto.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

No. 201.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 14.)

(No. 38. Political.)
Adrianople, September 5, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship the translated copy of a Vizirial letter to the Governor-General of this vilayet, giving expression to the Sultan's sense of the zeal, devotedness, and fidelity displayed by His Majesty's subjects on the occasion of the present war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 201.

Vizirial Letter addressed to the Governor-General of the Vilayet of Adrianople.

(Translation.)

DURING two years past our enemy has been continually raising up difficulties and exciting revolt against the authority and independence of the Empire, and he has ended by declaring an unjust war. Happily we have seen the brave sons of our country accept with the utmost self-denial at the seat of war every sacrifice which circumstances have imposed upon them; and we have also witnessed the zeal with which the subjects of the Empire, of every class, have supported the Government in smoothing the difficulties which this state of things has created, especially as regards financial matters. This zeal, the result of a feeling of true patriotism, devotedness, and fidelity, has been eloquently expressed in different ways, as, for example, by furnishing supplies for the army, by subscriptions in money, &c.

Our august and beneficent Sovereign appreciates these noble services, and extols them. This is a distinguished honour for those who labour for the safety and the defence of the country, for the names of such persons thus become proverbial as patriots, and acquire the benedictions of all.

As the preceding general remarks are completely applicable to the fidelity and devotedness shown by the inhabitants of the vilayet administered by your Excellency;

As it is the most ardent desire of His Imperial Majesty to develop and bring to perfection the liberty, tranquillity, and security of his subjects;

As the devoted efforts of those who, in their persons or with their money, labour to frustrate the attacks of the enemies of religion and of the Empire, serve at the same time to facilitate the accomplishment of that desire;

His Imperial Majesty the Sultan has commanded me to declare to your Excellency that those noble services are very precious in his eyes.

I have consequently to request you to make known to the inhabitants of your vilayet that the Imperial benevolence, which is the most effectual guarantee of the security and well-being of all classes of his subjects, extends to all the children of the country who

labour with zeal and ardour in his cause, and that the services which they have already performed have received the Imperial appreciation which they so well merit.

25 *Redjeb*, 1294 (July 31/August 12, 1877.)

No. 202.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 14.)

(No. 39. Political.)
Adrianople, September 5, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a translated extract from the "Edirné," Turkish official Gazette, relative to the approaching election of deputies for the vilayet of Adrianople to the Ottoman Chamber of Representatives.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 202.

Extract from the "Edirné" of August 31/September 12, 1877.

(Translation.)

AN Imperial Edict, recently issued, calls upon the inhabitants of the vilayet of Adrianople to proceed with the election, conformably to the rules already published, of ten deputies for the Assembly, whereof five Mussulman and five non-Mussulman deputies, being in proportion to the number of the population. The Assembly will open on the 1st/13th November, and the deputies must be at Constantinople before that date. The authorities of this vilayet have taken the necessary steps towards the above object.

No. 203.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 14.)

(No. 1056.)
Therapia, September 7, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose extract from a despatch from Acting-Consul Barker, dated the 1st instant, relating to arms and ammunition abandoned by the band of armed men who recently crossed the Greek frontier into Thessaly, and whom the Greek Government declare to have been ordinary brigands. It is scarcely probable that they were so, as they appear to have been provided with 419 United States Springfield muskets, with bayonets. It would seem more likely that, as the Turkish Government maintain, they were sent over to effect, if possible, a rising of the Greek population of the province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 203.

Acting-Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, September 1, 1877.

(Extract.)

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Mr. Suter writes to me from Larissa, under date the 29th August, that "the Ottoman authorities have handed over the arms which were lately brought thither from Constantinople to such of the respectable Mahommedans of Larissa and other parts of the country as they have thought advisable, with portions of ammunition for each." This has been done after that the incident which induced them to do so (the attempt of the filibusters) had altogether failed. And so great is the fear entertained of this real or pretended danger that "domiciliary visits have been made in Christian houses, search for arms effected, and, when found, forcibly seized."

The following is the amount of military stores abandoned in their flight across the frontier by the filibusters:—

419 (United States Springfield) muskets with bayonets.
65 cases cartridges.
30 cases gunpowder.
6 cases percussion-caps.
Some thousand okes of pig lead.
Last week the Ottoman steam-transport "Malakoff" landed at Volo:—
165 cases, containing 3,300 muskets.
240 boxes cartridges.

No. 204.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 14.)

(No. 336.) *Rome, September* 8, 1877.

My Lord,

IT having been stated in one of the newspapers this morning, that a certain coldness existed at the present moment in the relations between the Italian and Turkish Governments, I took an opportunity of making some inquiries on this subject during a visit I paid to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs this morning.

Count Tornielli, whom I saw while waiting for Signor Melegari, did not quite deny that such was the case, although he said there was no special reason for it, except the way in which the Porte had dealt with the question of the blockade in the Black Sea. A representation had been addressed to the Porte to the effect that they had permitted a certain number of Greek vessels to pass the Straits and to proceed to Taganrok, to which the Porte had replied by denying the truth of the assertion. In answer to representations which had been addressed to the Government from the Chamber of Commerce of Genoa, complaining of the exceptional favour accorded to Greek ships, a communication had been made in the terms of the note received from the Porte, viz., that no exception had been made in favour of Greek ships. The Chamber of Commerce had, however, obtained positive proof that twenty-four Greek vessels had been allowed to proceed to Taganrok, and had renewed their application, commenting on the inefficient manner in which the Government was served by their agents at Constantinople.

A further representation had, therefore, been made to the Turkish Government, and an application had been made to them to allow two Italian vessels now lying at Taganrok to clear outwards, but hitherto this had led to no satisfactory result.

M. Melegari, to whom I afterwards spoke on this matter, treated it in a less serious manner. His Excellency told me that he had forwarded the papers to General Menabrea for communication to your Lordship, as he was aware that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople had been also occupied with this affair.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 205.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 14.)

(No. 340.) *Siena, September* 10, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 332 of the 6th instant, inclosing a copy and translation of a note which I had received from M. Melegari, stating that the Italian Government had given pacific counsels at Belgrade, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, in an interview which I had with his Excellency on the 8th instant, he repeated this assurance. He said, indeed, that his advice to Servia not to take part in the present war had been continual.

His Excellency also informed me that he had spoken in the same sense at Athens.

The policy of the Italian Government, his Excellency added, had never varied. They regretted that the Turks had not been more amenable to the advice of the Powers at the Conference; they deplored the commencement of the war by Russia; they earnestly desired that the war might be confined to the Powers actually engaged; and they would always be ready to join with other Powers with the view to the establishment of peace whenever the moment might be thought favourable for making an attempt at mediation; but M. Melegari did not consider that that moment had yet arrived, or, indeed, that there would be a prospect of bringing Russia to negotiate until she had some decided military

success. He thought, however, that not an instant should be lost after that event, if it were destined to occur, in endeavouring to secure peace.

M. Melegari mentioned to me, in the course of the same interview, that as soon as he had learnt the massacre of Greek Christians at Kavarna, which had been brought before him by the Greek Government, he had at once instructed the Italian Minister at Constantinople to point out to the Turkish Government the horror which such outrages must inevitably and universally create, and the injury which must result to the Turkish cause throughout the world if the war was not conducted by the Turkish troops on the principles of modern civilization; and that, therefore, when the German Ambassador had come to him to read a despatch from his Government, asking the Italian Government to join the appeal which was being made to the Porte to observe the Geneva Convention, he was enabled to reply to M. de Kendell that the Italian Government had already forestalled the wishes of the German Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 206.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 13, 1877.

AN official telegram from Cattaro received to-day reports the defeat by Montenegrins of a Turkish force under Hafiz Pasha coming to relieve Nichsich.

The report that a Russian force is preparing to cross the Danube into Servia is not believed here.

No. 207.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September* 13, 1877.

GRAND DUKE telegraphs, dated Poradin, September 12, 10·40 P.M.:—

"We bombarded Plevna from daybreak yesterday till 5 P.M., when assault was given. General Skobolew took three redoubts of south front and General Radionow took large redoubt of Grivitza with two flags and five cannons. Latter slightly wounded. General Dobrovolsky killed. We had above 5,000 wounded yesterday; number of killed not known. Firing recommenced this morning along whole line. Our troops occupy positions in sight of Turkish fortifications and hold those occupied yesterday."

No. 208.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, September* 13, 1877, 9 P.M.
(Confidential.)

COLONEL WELLESLEY reports that on the 11th instant Russians made three desperate attacks on the west of Plevna, but were repulsed with heavy loss.

Roumanian army has also suffered severely.

No. 209.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 15.)

(No. 223.) *Athens, September* 8, 1877

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 55 of the 30th ultimo, in which your Lordship incloses for my information copies of Mr. Vivian's despatches Nos. 259 and 263 of the 16th ultimo, respecting the volunteers who have left and are leaving Egypt to serve in the Greek army, and reporting a conversation Mr. Vivian had had with the Khedive as to the further assistance His Highness was prepared to offer to the Sultan in case of need, I have the honour to report that with a view of showing the Greek Govern-

ment the bitterness of feeling which exists against Greece in the mind of the Khedive, and the possibility of danger arising to Greece from that quarter, should she declare war against Turkey, I yesterday read to M. Tricoupi Mr. Vivian's No. 259, and such portions of his No. 263 as I thought would be of interest to him. I told his Excellency that I had not received orders from your Lordship to read the despatches in question to him, and that in doing so I was animated by no unfriendly feeling, but that, on the contrary, I thought it would be a friendly act to communicate to him the information which Her Majesty's Government had received from their Diplomatic Agent in Egypt, as to the feelings of the Khedive with regard to Greece, although perhaps he might have received full information on the subject from his own Agent at Alexandria.

M. Tricoupi replied that he had not heard from the Greek Consul-General on the subject of which Mr. Vivian's despatches treat, and with regard to the volunteers from abroad, he said the Government was discouraging any more leaving for Greece, as they do not consider the introduction of a volunteer element into the army as beneficial, and he also repeated to me his intention of pursuing a pacific policy towards Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 210.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 224. Confidential.)
Athens, September 8, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Tricoupi, whom I saw yesterday, referred to the instructions which I had received from your Lordship to inquire of the Greek Government whether Her Majesty's Government might assure Turkey that Greece had no intention of making war upon her, and that she would not attempt to create insurrectionary movements in the provinces of Turkey inhabited by Greeks. M. Tricoupi stated that, on bringing the matter to the notice of the Council of Ministers, it had been considered by them as an unfriendly act on the part of Her Majesty's Government, and he asked my opinion on the matter, and then inquired how the question had arisen.

I replied that I could not express an opinion as to the course adopted by Her Majesty's Government, that I had received certain instructions which I had fulfilled, that as far as I could recollect I was certain that the question had emanated from the Turkish Government and not from Mr. Layard, and that the Porte had already, through Musurus Pasha, called your Lordship's attention to the attitude of Greece, that I thought that perhaps the Turkish Government had now adopted this course as less likely to be offensive to Greece than if they had addressed the Greek Government directly, but that I would refer to the telegram and write to him so as to remove all misapprehension on the point. I accordingly addressed a private note to-day to M. Tricoupi, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, and which I have been careful to word in such a manner as not to give the exact text of the telegram.

As I have already reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 218 of the 4th instant, that I had communicated to M. Tricoupi the substance of your Lordship's telegram to me, I am rather at a loss why M. Tricoupi should have thought that the question had arisen with Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, unless it was owing to my having opened the conversation by stating that, judging from information recently received by Her Majesty's Government from Mr. Layard, there appeared to be a great deal of irritation at the Porte at the present attitude of Greece.

M. Tricoupi is addressing a despatch to M. Gennadius on this question, and he told me that, with reference to the armaments of Greece he was laying particular stress upon the Protocol of the Conference of London of the 30th August, 1832, as to Greece having the right to maintain land and sea forces without any limit being placed upon their number, and also as to her right to take part in a war.

The question, however, does not appear to be one regarding the number of troops Greece may think fit to keep under arms, but as to how she intends to employ them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 210.

Mr. Wyndham to M. Tricoupi.

(Private.)
Athens, September 8, 1877.

Dear M. Tricoupi,

WITH reference to our conversation of yesterday, I have referred to Lord Derby's telegram and I find that the Porte asked Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople whether the Hellenic Government had given the English Government any distinct assurances that Greece will not attack Turkey or try to create insurrections, and that, if such was the case, whether Her Majesty's Government would allow Mr. Layard to make a declaration in that sense to the Turkish Government.

Lord Derby, referring to Mr. Stuart's despatches which I had the pleasure of reading to you on the 4th instant, desired me to ask if your Government would authorize the English Government to make such a declaration in their name to Turkey.

Trusting that this explanation will be found clear and satisfactory, believe me, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 211.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 15.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)
Bucharest, September 14, 1877, 2·45 P.M.

COLONEL WELLESLEY reports:—

"Russians and Roumanians captured Grivitza redoubt at 7 P.M., September 11, losing about 1,000 killed and wounded. I have visited work, but do not consider loss of it as of vital importance.

"Russians lost 126 officers and 5,000 *hors de combat* in unsuccessful attempt to storm redoubt reported in my telegram of yesterday."

No. 212.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 15.)

(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, September 15, 1877.

GRAND DUKE telegraphs, dated Poradin, Thursday, September 13:—

"Yesterday we made no fresh attack, only fired against Turkish fortifications and town. Turks replied feebly, directing all their efforts to our left flank, which menaces their rear. General Skobolew repulsed five desperate attacks, but after sixth was compelled to abandon forts he had taken on 11th instant. Our troops are entrenched in their positions around Plevna. We have 6,000 wounded. No fighting elsewhere. Rustchuk army concentrated in new positions behind Lom line, occupied by Turks."

No. 213.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 15.)

(Telegraphic.)
Athens, September 15, 1877.

THE Prime Minister of Greece, Admiral Conaris, died last night.

No. 214.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 16.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.)
Bucharest, September 15, 1877.

COLONEL WELLESLEY reports from—

"*Before Plevna, September 13.*—On the 11th instant Russians captured two redoubts connected by trenches above Plevna, and between Loven and Sophia roads. After repeated attacks the Turks succeeded in retaking the works on the evening of the 12th.

"I estimate total Russian loss this week at 15,000 men, or half the amount of the reinforcements they are expecting.

"I consider Russian success here most doubtful: and if the news of Russian defeats by Mehemet Ali Pasha be correct, a Russian retreat becomes inevitable.

"In such an event, the whole population between the Balkans and the Danube would be at the mercy of the Turks: and I venture therefore to ask if nothing could be done to persuade Turkish Government to prevent such massacres as seem only too likely to occur."

"*Same date*, 7 P.M.—Position remains unaltered. Turks still hold small work close to Gravitza redoubt. Only few guns fired at intervals during the day, to which Turks did not even reply, but spent the day in repairing their works."

No. 215.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 16.)

(Telegraphic.) (Confidential.) *Bucharest, September* 15, 1877, 5·15 P.M.

WITH reference to Colonel Wellesley's telegram forwarded by me to-day, Mehemet Ali Pasha is for the moment stationary on the Lom. He and his enemy seem to be mutually afraid of each other.

No. 216.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 16.)

St. Petersburgh, September 16, 1877, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

GRAND DUKE telegraphs, dated Poradim, September 15:—

"I was unable to telegraph yesterday. Occupied in choosing new positions for our batteries and reconnoitring of enemy. Our batteries bombarded Plevna all day on 13th, and up to 6 P.M. on 14th; Turks did not reply: probably engaged in preparing another attack. At 6 P.M. on 14th instant Turks opened fire against Gravitza redoubt, and afterwards attacked it, but were repulsed. Whole affair lasted three and a-half hours. To-day we continue bombardment. Town is on fire. Since 7th September, 239 wounded officers and 9,482 men have reached our ambulances. Number of killed, about 3,000; our total loss estimated at 300 officers and 12,500 men. Roumanian loss up to September 14, about 60 officers and 3,000 men killed and wounded. Spirit of troops excellent. Roumanians fight well. All quiet elsewhere."

No. 217.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 397.) (Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 16, 1877, 12·30 P.M.

GRAND VIZIER sends me the following:

"Dieu punit le provocateur orgueilleux. Osman Pacha télégraphie de Plevna même que les Russes sont vaincus après avoir laissé sur le champ plus de 8,000 morts, plusieurs canons, et munitions considérables. La bataille continue encore."

No. 218.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 398.) (Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 16, 1877, 2·30 P.M.

PORTE proposes to issue Circular to the foreign Embassies at Constantinople relating to the state of siege and martial law to the following effect:—

In case of necessity of arresting foreigners or searching their houses, Consular Agents should immediately assist Ottoman authorities on reason given. If their consent is not given, then the military authorities are to proceed without it, being accompanied on entering a foreigner's house by three notories, who are to draw a proces-verbal of the proceedings. Foreigners are amenable to councils of war properly constituted to deal with crimes and acts against safety of the State and public order and peace. Military authorities can require foreigners to give up arms and ammunition. In case of invasion of territory placed in state of siege, or in which there are serious troubles, the military authorities can request foreigners residing there to remove elsewhere within a certain period, after the lapse of which such foreigners will be only entitled to protection which the local authorities can afford them.

I should be glad to know from your Lordship whether there would be objection to what Porte proposes, as in case there is I might prevent Circular being issued in contemplated form.

No. 219.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 399.) (Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 16, 1877, 7 P.M.

GRAND VIZIER informs me that Mehemet Ali Pasha telegraphed yesterday that, after six hours' fighting at Sinan, Russian corps of 32 battalions, 3 regiments cavalry, 64 guns, was defeated by 18 battalions under Sabit Pasha.

No. 220.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 17.)

(No. 18. Political.) *Corfu, September* 13, 1877.

My Lord,

FROM the Report I have the honour herewith to transmit to your Lordship, it will be seen that martial law has at length been proclaimed in Epirus.

From another quarter I am informed that the measure is general throughout the province, and that at Janina it was followed by the immediate arrest and extradition of the Interpreter attached to the Russian Consulate there, who, when the Consul and his staff were obliged to quit the country on war being declared, was cunningly turned over to the Italian Consulate, where he has ever since contrived to make himself useful in the Russian interest. This individual is expected here forthwith, if, indeed, he has not already arrived.

2. I am further informed that sailing vessels are prohibited from entering the port of Prevesa by night, and, consequently, from proceeding onward to the Gulf of Arta by the narrow channel which for several miles intersects Ottoman territory.

A great outcry is being raised against this measure as a violation of Greek rights, but this without any just cause, I humbly opine, as the Gulf of Arta, being only accessible by a narrow channel, guarded on both sides by Turkish forts, is, in all respects, liable to be regarded as a *mare clausum*, especially in war time.

3. The Russian party is in the ascendant both at Corfu and Santa Maura, where their efforts to revolutionise Epirus are actively and efficiently seconded by the association—more secret, but now no longer so—of the "*Hetæria*," or "Great Brotherhood."

This society extends all over European Turkey and the bordering Slav-Austrian Provinces. It played a distinguished part in preparing for the War of Independence which broke out in Greece in 1821; its agency was powerfully exerted towards stirring up the insurrection in Bosnia and Herzegovina, now in progress; and its united ramifications in Greece and in these islands now constitute an antagonist force against which the Greek Ministry has to struggle for the maintenance of the neutrality during the present war to which it is bound by Treaties and by its own solemn declarations.

Knowing, as I do, the foolish propensities of the warlike elements now being congregated along the whole extent of the Greco-Turkish frontier, I may, I trust, be excused for questioning the power of the superior authorities, exert themselves as they may, to prevent an armed invasion of the Ottoman territory, on the slightest reverse of the Turkish arms on the Danube.

4. The Hetæreists form a completely independent organization, with plenty of funds at their command, which they have lavishly employed hitherto in gaining over partizans among the Turkish Rayahs.

I am (confidentially) informed that no later than last week the Hetæric at Santa

Maura received no less a sum than 100,000 drachmas from the "Committee of National Defence" at Athens, for what purpose it is not difficult to imagine.

The existence of martial law in Epirus will probably put a temporary stop to their proceedings in that quarter; but it is much to be dreaded that many of the natives already compromised by past machinations may be hunted up, and pay with their lives for their credulity and disloyalty.

5. The new defensive works being erected by the Turks on their Acarnanian frontier, referred to in my last Report, No. 17, consist of a strong redoubt, situated in the plain outside the "Punta" Fort, but considerably within the frontier line of demarcation.

The new works are to be protected by a wet ditch, to run between the bay on the Santa Maura side and the channel which, from the town of Prevesa, conducts to the Gulf of Arta. Hence the new works neither command nor menace Greek territory.

6. The Russian Colonel Becker, stationed at Corfu, as is alleged, for political purposes, left the day before yesterday, by the Greek mail-steamer, for Athens, on a temporary visit.

7. The Austrian steamer from Alexandria, which touched here yesterday, brought us forty young Greeks, intending to enter the Greek army as volunteers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 220.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Santa Maura, September 8, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that official intelligence received here on the 5th announces that martial law was proclaimed at Prevesa late in the afternoon of the 4th instant.

The immediate effect of this extreme measure, which has justly caused a panic among the defenceless Christians in that district, was the arrest of a certain Demetrio Skeferi, brother-in-law of the late Russian Vice-Consul at Arta-Vazzelli. His house was surrounded with troops and searched, but nothing was found in it in the shape of secret correspondence and other papers which the Turkish authorities were anxious to get hold of, as they would have thrown much light on certain intrigues being carried on with the object of inciting an insurrectionary movement in Epirus.

Other persons, I am informed, are also compromised, about whose fate great anxiety prevails among their friends here. Others had just time enough to escape from Prevesa.

It is also reported that the districts of Janina and Arta have been placed in a state of siege; but I have not yet received any official information on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ONOFRIO.

No. 221.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 17.)

(No. 493.)
St. Petersburgh, September 12, 1877.

My Lord,

IN reply to my inquiry from M. de Giers to-day, his Excellency stated that no Convention or written engagement had been entered into between Russia and Roumania beyond that which had been already published at the commencement of the war.

In regard to Servia, his Excellency likewise stated that no direct engagement had been entered into, but he observed that a change had taken place in the disposition of the Imperial policy, which had been brought about by the force of circumstances. This change consisted in discontinuing the counsels hitherto given to Servia to remain passive, and removing any pressure exercised in that sense. Servia was, therefore, free to act or not to act as might be deemed advisable for her own interests.

I observed to his Excellency that certain incidents had lately occurred which apparently evinced a desire on the part of Russia for a Servian co-operation in the war. I instanced the mission of Prince Tséreteleff to Belgrade, the bearer, it is said, of 100,000*l.* (or 1,000,000 roubles) to the Servian Government, and further the presence of a Russian General Fadief, of well-known Slave proclivities, who had offered his services to the Servian Government.

M. de Giers said that he had no knowledge of the money reported to have been sent to Belgrade by Prince Tséreteleff, but added that, as I was aware, the Servian Government had, during the war last year, contracted a loan here under the auspices of the Imperial Government, and that the sum in question may have been the remaining portion of that loan still to be paid.

In regard to Prince Tséreteleff, M. de Giers stated that he had inquired by telegraph from Prince Gortchakow whether he was still to be considered as on the Diplomatic List of the Foreign Office, and that the Chancellor had replied that Prince Tséreteleff had ceased to be under his orders, and was employed under the Grand Duke Commanding-in-chief, by whom he had been sent to Belgrade.

In regard to General Fadief, M. de Giers stated that the Servian Government had been informed that the Imperial Government disclaimed any community with the Slav Committees and with General Fadief. This precaution, his Excellency observed, was necessary in order to prevent any disagreeable complications with Austria.

In regard to Greece, M. de Giers stated that the Imperial Government had confined their communications to those of a tranquillizing nature, assuring Greece that, at the conclusion of the war, the Greek element should be treated on the same footing with the Slav element. His Excellency denied that any proposal had been made to Greece to join action with Russia in the present war, nor was there any intention on the part of Russia to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 222.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 17.)

(No. 400.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 17, 1877, 10 A.M.

GRAND VIZIER informs me that, at about 4 o'clock this morning, Fort Sveti Nicholas, in the Shipka Pass, was taken by the Turks.

No. 223.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, September* 17, 1877.

THE Roumanians, with nearly 2,000 wounded, have literally no hospital appliances. Can your Lordship move the English Red Cross Society to help? I do not know whom to address.

No. 224.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 68.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 17, 1877.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 218 of the 4th instant, reporting a conversation which you had with M. Tricoupi on the subject of the present attitude and policy of Greece as regards Turkey; and I have to convey to you the approval by Her Majesty's Government of your Excellency's proceedings, as reported in your despatch above mentioned, in pursuance of the instructions conveyed to you in my telegram of the 3rd instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 225.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

(No. 71.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 17, 1877.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 116 of the 6th ultimo, transmitting correspondence which has passed between yourself and the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs

relative to the Kurdish outrages on Armenian Christians; and I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve your proceedings in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 226.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 524.) *Foreign Office, September 17, 1877.*

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 429 of the 14th ultimo, I transmit herewith to your Excellency the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran, forwarding correspondence which has passed between himself and the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the outrages by Persian Kurds on the Armenian Christians, and I have to instruct your Excellency to bring this correspondence to the notice of the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 227.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 525.) *Foreign Office, September 17, 1877.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1027 of the 31st ultimo, stating that the Sultan had expressed to you the grateful sense he entertained of the reception given to his Envoy to the Ameer of Afghanistan by the Viceroy of India, and had requested you to convey to Her Majesty's Government his warm thanks for it; and I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the observations which you addressed to His Majesty suggesting that Ahmet Khouloussi should take advantage of his journey to India to see the perfect freedom enjoyed by all religious sects and creeds in those dominions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 228.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 526.) *Foreign Office, September 17, 1877.*

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve the language held by your Excellency in the conversation you had with Ahmed Vefyk Pasha before his departure on his mission to Adrianople, as reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 1031 of the 1st instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 229.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 527. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, September 17, 1877.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1037, Confidential, of the 4th instant, reporting a conversation you had with Server Pasha relative to the non-compliance by the Regent of Tunis with the request of the Porte to furnish the contingent of troops which he was bound to provide in case of war, and I have to inform your Excellency that the language which you held on this occasion is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 230.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 528.) *Foreign Office, September 17, 1877.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 1041 of the 4th instant, on the subject of a M. Gueshoglu, who has been arrested on the charge of being implicated in the Bulgarian insurrection. You state that this gentleman had recently agreed to act as American Consular Agent at Philippopolis, and that application had been made to the Porte for the usual papers acknowledging him as acting in such capacity, and that the United States' Minister has now demanded that he shall not be harmed and should at once be sent to Constantinople, and has asked you whether you would support him in his demand, as M. Gueshoglu was under British protection; and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve your having refused to do so on the ground that M. Gueshoglu had no claim to British protection in Turkey, and that, as a Turkish subject, you had no right to interfere in the matter officially.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 231.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 529.) *Foreign Office, September 17, 1877.*

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve your having brought to the notice of the Porte the telegram, of which a copy is inclosed in your Excellency's despatch No. 1047 of the 5th instant, from Mr. Consul Blunt, informing you that the Christian village of Bansko was believed to be threatened with an attack from the neighbouring Mussulman villages.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 232.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 74. Political.) *Aleih, September 1, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 71 of the 18th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting on the state of affairs in the Ansariyeh Mountains, district of Lattakia, as far as they are at present known to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 232.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Aleih, September 1, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 18th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that since that date I have received no official intelligence as to the state of affairs at Sahioun and in the Ansariyeh Mountains.

I learn, however, that Shukir Bey, the Mutessarif, has returned to his residence at Tripoli, but it would appear that Akif Pasha, the Brigadier-General and Commandant of Beyrout, still remains in the disturbed district, and that he has demanded reinforcements, which were sent to him by sea about a week ago.

For your Excellency's information, I transmit an extract from a private letter, dated the 29th ultimo, which I have received from Lattakia, reporting a rumour that certain

Ansayrychs who are in alliance with the Mussulmans have not respected the property of the Christians of the Mountains, which appears to have been already brought to the notice of the Mutessarif, who, I believe, from my personal knowledge of him, will do his utmost to prevent any further outrages being committed on the Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 232.

Extract from a Private Letter from Lattakia, dated July 29, 1877.

CETTE fois-ci je regrette d'avoir à vous transmettre une mauvaise nouvelle par rapport aux Chrétiens de la Montagne.

Hier soir le bruit a couru que les troupes commandées par Akif Pâcha, aidées par les Ansayrychs Omameras (les alliés des Musulmans de Sahioun et ennemis des Montagnards Ansayrychs de Kalbychs et Bet-el-Chelf), ont attaqué les villages de Debbache et Elmezérâa, de la Montagne de Bet-el-Chelf, qui ont été incendiés et saccagés, et que dans cette attaque les maisons des Chrétiens habitant les mêmes villages n'ont pas été épargnées. A Elmezérâa les Ansayrychs Omameras ont fait le plus de mal aux Chrétiens; ils en ont incendiés les maisons après les avoir saccagées et ils ont saccagé l'église. On dit aussi qu'il y a eu deux Chrétiens grièvement blessés.

N'ayant pas encore pu avoir tous les renseignements nécessaires, je ne puis pas vous en soumettre un rapport officiel par cette occasion. C'est ce que j'aurai l'honneur de faire par la prochaine occasion.

En attendant, je ne suis que trop fâché de cet incident, car c'est la première fois depuis trop longtemps que ces Chrétiens des dits villages ont été ainsi maltraités, ou pour mieux dire que les Ansayrychs ont fait main basse sur eux aussi. Dès à présent je crains qu'il n'arrive la même chose aux Chrétiens des autres villages; et je n'ai pas manqué de faire, confidentiellement, cette observation à Chakir Bey, que j'ai vu hier soir et qui m'a promis d'entreprendre des mesures préservatrices.

Ce matin trois compagnies de troupes régulières sont arrivées ici de Tripoli, pour remplacer le bataillon formé des Rédifs de 3me Bun de Lattaquie et de Gébélé, et de quelques Mustafiz, qui se trouve avec Akif Pacha, et qui est sur le point de partir pour le théâtre de la guerre.

No. 233.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 18.)

(No. 76. Political.)
Aleih, September 3, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting the disgraceful proceedings of the leaders of a combined force, composed of troops of the Lebanon and zaptiehs of the Vilayet, sent to the Bekaa to capture brigands and deserters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 233.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Layard.

Aleih, September 3, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that for some time past the plain of the Bekaa, and the neighbourhood of Baalbek, have been infested by bands of marauders, consisting chiefly of deserters from the redifs, Metualis, and criminals of various creeds, who rendered that part of the country unsafe, and who lately pushed their audacity to the extent of attacking, in a body of about 200, the Metuali village of Hermil, situated on the northern extremity of Mount Lebanon, in order to rescue four of their comrades who were detained there under accusation of murder and other crimes.

In consequence of this outrage committed on Lebanon territory, the authorities of the vilayet and Mount Lebanon arranged to pursue these brigands with a combined force, towards which the Mountain authorities contributed 50 mounted dragoons of the Christian Regiment, and about 150 men of the Lebanon Militia, the vilayet furnishing about 20 mounted zaptiehs under a bimbashi, who, as senior officer, assumed the command of the whole force, which was accompanied by the Kaimakam of Baalbek and other functionaries of the district.

According to the reports which have reached me, the proceedings of these officers would appear to have had for their object their own individual interests, rather than the arrestation of the brigands they were sent to capture.

I am informed that, on approaching a village where it was known that a number of deserters and other criminals were concealed, the bimbashi would order the Lebanon forces to halt at some distance from the place, and then advance, accompanied by the Kaimakam and some of his own people, and enter into a parley with the inhabitants of the village, telling them that unless they paid a certain amount the dragoons and troops of the Lebanon would advance and pillage the place. After some bargaining, a sum of money would be agreed upon, and paid to the leaders of the troops of the vilayet, who would then return to the Lebanon forces and inform them there were no brigands in the village, and order them to retire. I have the names of some half-a-dozen villages in the Bekaa where this operation was repeated.

The Lebanese forces, however, on one occasion succeeded, during the absence of the officers of the vilayet, in capturing twenty-eight brigands.

The officers of the Lebanon troops protest strongly against these proceedings, and complain bitterly at not being permitted to enter the villages, but were compelled to perform forced marches for no other object than to aid the leaders sent by the vilayet to levy black mail upon the unfortunate villagers and share the spoil with the brigands.

The authorities of the Lebanon are naturally indignant at what has occurred, and I am informed that the Governor-General has sent the Colonel of the Lebanon Gendarmerie to take command of the expedition, and, as he is a man of judgment and courage, as well as thoroughly reliable, I hope the desired result—the capture or the dispersion of the brigands—will soon be achieved.

In reporting these facts to your Excellency, I beg to call your attention to some remarks which I made in my despatch of the 4th ultimo, reporting the recall of Omer Fevzi Pasha, and the probable effect it would have in increasing the facilities for peculation and abuses amongst the subordinate functionaries in the vilayet, as I feel convinced that the Bimbashi, who led the combined expedition, and his companions, would not have dared to act in such a bare-faced manner had they not thought that the unsettled state of the Administration would allow them to escape with impunity. I trust, however, that Izzet Pasha, the Mushir of the 5th Corps, and Acting Wali, will make a severe example of the culprits in this instance, as I have reason to believe that the authorities of the Lebanon have already reported these proceedings to his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 234.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 18.)

(No. 77. Political.)
Aleih, September 4, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reporting the arrival and treatment at Acre of forty-one Bulgarian prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 234.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Layard.

Aleih, September 4, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that having learnt of the arrival at Acre some few weeks ago of a number of Bulgarian prisoners, I requested a friend residing

in that neighbourhood to procure me some information respecting them, and he reports that he visited them last week.

He found them confined in a moderately spacious prison on the ground floor, but dark and close from want of air and light. When they learnt that he was inquiring for them, three or four of their number who spoke French were put forward to the gratings, and my correspondent goes on to say:—

"I was struck with the intelligent look and quiet demeanour of the men; one would take them worthy for civilians of the middle class, and they appeared without exception to be men incapable of committing a crime, whatever might be said of their complicity in the insurrectionary plottings of last year.

"There were forty-one of them in all; they have been arrested before the commencement of the war. Some of them had been tried, others not: the sentences of the former were mostly imprisonment for ten and fifteen years and for life. Not one of them, according to their own account, had been guilty of any crime. The immediate grievance of which they complained most was that they were kept in irons. In Stamboul, where they had been previously, they were not in irons and were better treated in every way; here they get very little to eat except bread and water—a fact to which their pale countenances forcibly testified.

"They seem to have got the idea that they were sent here in order to prevent them from making their case known to Mr. Layard."

It is unfortunate that my correspondent did not think of obtaining any of the names of these men, and I doubt whether he will be again allowed to visit them, as having no official character he experienced some difficulty in getting access to them.

I report these facts for your Excellency's information, as I consider them of sufficient interest to justify my doing so, and should you desire me to take any steps in behalf of these prisoners I shall be glad to receive your instructions on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 235.

M. Tricoupi to M. Gennadius.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, September* 18.)

Athènes, le $\frac{23 \text{ Août}}{4 \text{ Septembre}}$ 1877.

Monsieur,

J'AI eu aujourd'hui la visite du Chargé d'Affaires du Gouvernement Britannique, qui m'a fait part du contenu d'un télégramme de Lord Derby, destiné à m'être communiqué. Par ce télégramme le Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté Britannique faisant allusion aux inquiétudes que l'attitude de la Grèce inspirerait, d'après les rapports de Mr. Layard à la Porte, demande si le Gouvernement Hellénique autorise celui de la Grande Bretagne de donner à la Porte l'assurance que la Grèce ne lui fera pas la guerre et qu'elle ne se rendra pas complice d'actes ayant pour but de provoquer des mouvements insurrectionnels dans les provinces limitrophes.

Mr. Wyndham est invité par ce même télégramme à me donner lecture de deux rapports de Mr. Stuart à son Gouvernement, où le Ministre de Sa Majesté Britannique rendait compte des conversations qu'il avait eues avec moi, au sujet de la politique que le Gouvernement Hellénique comptait suivre à l'égard de la Turquie.

Ayant pris connaissance de ces pièces, je me suis empressé de rendre justice à l'exactitude avec laquelle Mr. Stuart avait rapporté le sens de mes paroles. J'avais dit, en effet, à Mr. Stuart, ainsi qu'il le disait dans sa dépêche, que la Grèce actuellement ne se proposait pas de déclarer la guerre à la Turquie et je répétai à Mr. Wyndham que c'était là tout ce que la Porte, ou tout autre en son nom, était en droit de nous demander. Aucun Etat indépendant n'était tenu d'engager l'avenir relativement à la faculté de déclarer la guerre. La déclaration de guerre était pour les Etats souverains la conséquence de certaines circonstances et le Gouvernement Hellénique, dans la crise actuelle plus que jamais, manquerait à ses devoirs envers l'indépendance du pays et les intérêts de l'Hellénisme en se privant de sa liberté d'action à cet égard, ou en la limitant soit absolument, soit par rapport à des circonstances éventuelles.

La Porte avait cru pouvoir élever des prétentions de cette nature, lors de la Constitution du Royaume Hellénique. Ainsi qu'il est constaté dans un Protocole signé à Constantinople le $\frac{5}{17}$ Juillet, 1832, elle demanda "que le Gouvernement Grec et les particuliers Grecs ne reçussent aucune espèce de service et ne donassent aucune assistance aux Puissances, Gouvernements, peuples et nations, avec lesquels la Sublime Porte pourrait être en guerre, mais qu'ils observassent strictement le principe de la neutralité." Cette prétention fut sommairement et catégoriquement rejetée par le Gouvernement Anglais agissant de concert avec les Gouvernements de France et de Russie, par la raison, développée dans le Protocole de la Conférence, tenue au Foreign Office le 30 Août, 1832, que "le droit de prendre parti dans toute guerre qui éclate entre Puissances tierces est un des droits inhérents à l'indépendance d'un Etat, à moins que cet Etat n'ait été constitué et déclaré perpétuellement neutre."

Certes, le Gouvernement Hellénique ne se retirera pas aujourd'hui de la position internationale que la Grèce se fit reconnaître, il y a quarante-cinq ans. En conséquence, tout en déclarant au Chargé d'Affaires Britannique que dans les circonstances actuelles la Grèce n'avait pas l'intention de faire la guerre, je fis observer à Mr. Wyndham que cette déclaration ne diminuerait en rien le droit inhérent à l'indépendance d'un Etat souverain de régler sa conduite dans l'avenir sur les circonstances et sur les devoirs que ces circonstances pourraient lui imposer, afin de sauvegarder sa dignité, ou ses intérêts légitimes.

Mr. Stuart rapportait aussi dans sa dépêche que je lui avais dit que le Gouvernement Hellénique usait de son influence pour prévenir, quant à présent, des mouvements insurrectionnels dans les provinces limitrophes de la Turquie. Je fis observer à ce sujet à Mr. Wyndham que Mr. Stuart avait textuellement écrit ce qu'il avait entendu de moi, mais que je tenais à expliquer que c'est à titre de simple information que je fis cette communication au Ministre de Sa Majesté Britannique. Le Gouvernement Hellénique était obligé par ses devoirs internationaux à ne pas susciter des troubles dans les provinces d'un Etat, avec lequel il entretenait des relations de paix; mais la Porte n'avait nullement le droit de lui demander de co-opérer à prévenir ou à réprimer des insurrections dans ces mêmes provinces et le Gouvernement Hellénique ne prendrait pas un tel engagement. S'il était vrai, ainsi que je l'avais dit à Mr. Stuart, que la Grèce usait de l'influence qu'elle possédait dans ces provinces pour empêcher une insurrection, elle le faisait pour des raisons qui ne regardaient qu'elle; mais le Gouvernement Hellénique ne se croyait nullement tenu envers des Puissances étrangères à agir ainsi et il ne persévérerait dans cette voie que tant qu'il continuerait à la considérer comme favorable aux intérêts de l'Hellénisme, qui sont ses propres intérêts. Ayant ainsi dégagé le sens de la déclaration demandée, je n'hésitai pas à dire à Mr. Wyndham qu'il pouvait informer Lord Derby que le Gouvernement Hellénique observait et continuerait à observer le devoir qu'il avait de ne pas provoquer des mouvements insurrectionnels dans les provinces limitrophes.

L'engagement à cet égard s'entendait de soi, puisqu'il constituait une obligation internationale des Etats envers ceux avec lesquels ils étaient en paix, et que la Grèce connaissait ses obligations internationales et ne pouvait se proposer de les enfreindre. Mr. Wyndham me demanda alors si je pensais que ces explications auraient pour effet d'apaiser les inquiétudes de la Porte et de la satisfaire. Je lui répondis que mes explications devaient satisfaire la Porte, puisqu'elles étaient les seules qu'elle pouvait attendre d'un Etat soucieux de son indépendance, de sa dignité et de ses devoirs envers d'autres qui ont des droits sur lui; mais qu'en tout cas, j'étais sûr qu'elle satisferaient le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, puisque je ne pouvais douter que l'Angleterre respectait les droits et les devoirs du Gouvernement Hellénique qui me dictaient ces explications. Mr. Wyndham, pour expliquer les appréhensions de la Porte, fit aussi allusion à nos armements, et aux concentrations de nos troupes; mais il ne fit pas de difficulté pour reconnaître que jugeant de nos forces militaires sur la mesure du système de recrutement et d'organisation des armées, introduit depuis quelques années dans presque tous les Etats de l'Europe, l'armée que nous préparons n'était nullement hors de proportion avec la population de l'Etat. D'ailleurs, les Protocoles que j'ai déjà invoqués ont prévenu la possibilité de toute contestation à cet égard. La Porte avait demandé, lors des négociations pour la reconnaissance du Royaume de Grèce, que les forces de terre et de mer de l'Etat Grec fussent limités au nombre suffisant à la police et au bon ordre du pays; à cette réclamation Lord Palmerston, comme Plénipotentiaire d'Angleterre, ainsi que les Plénipotentiaires de France et de Russie, répondirent "qu'il suffit d'observer que le droit d'entretenir des forces de terre et de mer, sans en limiter le nombre, est un droit inhérent à l'indépendance d'un Etat; que l'indépendance de la Grèce, et tous les droits qui y sont inhérents, ont été consacrés par le Protocole du 3 Février, 1830, que la Porte Ottomane a pleinement accédé à ce Protocole, et qu'en conséquence, ni les Cours qui l'ont signé, ni la Porte Ottomane qui y a accédé, ne sauraient aujourd'hui, sans violer leurs engagements, restreindre un des droits que ce même Protocole accorde à la Grèce dans toute leur plénitude."

Je me plais à reconnaître que dans ses communications directes avec le Gouvernement Hellénique la Porte n'a jamais fait entendre qu'elle mit en question l'autorité de ces décisions internationales.

Mr. Wyndham a rendu compte sur le champ à son Gouvernement de sa démarche

auprès de moi et des explications et observations qu'elle a provoquées de ma part. Il a bien voulu me donner connaissance de son rapport et de son télégramme y relatifs, et je trouvai que ma pensée y était correctement traduite. Néanmoins j'ai cru nécessaire de consigner moi-même dans cette dépêche les réflexions que m'avait suggérées la communication de Lord Derby, et je vous prie de vouloir bien en donner lecture à M. le Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté Britannique, et de lui en laisser une copie, s'il vous la demande.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) CH. TRICOUPI.

No. 236.

M. Tricoupi to the Greek Minister at Constantinople.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, September 18.)

(Confidentielle.)
Athènes, le 26 Août / 7 Septembre 1877.

M. le Ministre,

JE vous ai envoyé, à la date du 19 courant, le télégramme chiffré suivant :—

" On m'informe que, contrairement à l'Article VI du Traité de 1832, concentration de forces Ottomanes a lieu à Punta et retranchements y sont élevés à distances du fort. Nous espérons qu'il suffira de signaler ce fait à la Porte pour en obtenir cessation."

D'après les stipulations de l'Article précité, la Porte a la faculté d'entretenir une garnison suffisante dans le fort même, mais elle ne pourrait pas procéder à des concentrations de troupes et à la construction de nouvelles fortifications sur le promontoire, sans déroger à la lettre et à l'esprit du Traité en question.

Nous espérons donc que la Porte nous donnera à cet égard des explications rassurantes et qu'elle fera cesser les travaux et la concentration de troupes, si effectivement elle a lieu.

En attendant, nous nous trouvons dans la nécessité d'invoquer les dispositions de ce même Article pour réclamer contre la mesure prise par la Porte, relativement à l'entrée du détroit de Préveza, mesure qui fait l'objet de votre rapport du 18 courant.

Le Gouvernement Royal a été souvent dans le cas de démontrer à la Porte l'inanité de sa prétention, tendant à se constituer maîtresse du détroit de Préveza, par la raison qu'elle est en possession du fort de Punta qui domine l'entrée du détroit en question.

Les notes qui ont été adressées sur ce point à la Porte à plusieurs reprises, et notamment ma communication à Photiades Bey datée du 27 Août / 11 Sept., 1867, me dispensent d'entrer dans de longues explications à cet égard.

Il me suffira de rappeler que les droits découlant de notre qualité de Puissance riveraine du Golfe d'Arta ne sauraient nullement être infirmés par la circonstance que la Porte possède les deux pointes de terre qui forment l'entrée du Détroit de Préveza. Il en est ainsi, en vertu des principes généralement admis en cette matière, et d'après lesquels, et à défaut de stipulation contraire, la possession des deux rives à l'entrée d'une mer ou d'un golfe n'implique pas en faveur du possesseur le droit d'interdire l'accès de cette mer. Il l'est à plus forte raison, par suite des conditions expresses, auxquelles la cession du promontoire de Punta a été soumise par l'Acte International qui consacre cette cession.

En effet, c'est un des préceptes non contestés du droit international, que la liberté des mers et des eaux ne peut être restreinte que par des stipulations formelles reconnues et acceptées par les Etats riverains. Quant aux eaux fermées, telles que golfes, rades, ports, elles appartiennent à l'Etat ou aux Etats dont elles baignent le rivage.

Or, il n'existe aucune stipulation de nature à restreindre nos droits quant à l'accès du Golfe Ambracique. Bien au contraire, l'Article VI du Traité de 1832 a formellement stipulé que les autorités Ottomanes n'apporteront aucun empêchement au passage des bâtiments Grecs.

Il en résulte, évidemment, que la Porte ne saurait, de sa propre autorité et sans le consentement de la Grèce, prendre des mesures portant empêchement au passage du détroit, et, cependant, elle vient de notifier par une circulaire, qui nous a été également adressée, qu'elle vient d'interdire l'entrée et la sortie de la passe de Préveza à tous navires et embarcations après le coucher du soleil.

Après tout ce que nous venons d'exposer, nous croyons inutile d'entrer dans de plus longs développements et nous nous bornons à déclarer que cette notification n'a aucune valeur pour nous, attendu qu'on ne saurait interdire l'entrée de notre propre maison ni à nous-mêmes, ni à ceux que nous désirons y admettre.

Vous voudrez donc faire savoir à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères

que nous considérons la décision prise par la Porte comme nulle et non avenue en ce qui nous concerne.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) CH. TRICOUPI.

No. 237.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 401.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 18, 1877, 12·15 P.M.*

CAPTAIN FIFE telegraphs that early yesterday morning Turks attacked and carried the Russian works in Shipka Pass at the first onset, but subsequently they were forced to abandon them.

No. 238.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Odessa, September 18, 1877.*

I HAVE been informed that revolutionary placards demanding deposition of Emperor, on ground, principally, of injustice of the war, were posted up last night here, and were removed by the police this morning.

I attach no immediate serious importance.

No. 239.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 52. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, September 3, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the occupation of the Caucasus by the Turks has ceased more suddenly than it was expected by the withdrawal, on the 1st instant, of the troops from Soukoum, which was the last place they held on the coast.

On the 31st ultimo a body of about 5,000 Russians attacked the Turks, who repulsed them, inflicting on them heavy losses. But as Russian troops were arriving on all sides, to the number of 30,000 it is reckoned, the Ottoman corps of occupation was compelled to embark next day, abandoning, owing to the want of means of transport, 16 train and about 50 transport horses and mules, and upwards of 50,000 heads of cattle belonging to the Abazians. They slaughtered 2,000 or 3,000 animals for the sake of the skins.

A Greek steamer, chartered by the Porte as transport for the Abazians, did not reach Soukoum-Kaleh in time. She met, on the 1st instant, off that port, the Turkish vessels with the troops on board steaming towards the west.

If, instead of waiting so long, the Porte had chartered foreign vessels at the beginning of the emigration, the valuable cattle now abandoned would have been removed to Turkey by this time, and a great advantage secured to the immigrants, the last of whom arrived here yesterday.

Soukoum-Kaleh is reported to be entirely destroyed, the Turks having burnt down, before their departure, even the hospital, which was the last building standing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 240.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 53. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, September 3, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a detailed list of the arrivals of transports with emigrants or property belonging to them on board.

This data, which I have obtained from the bills of health, cannot be considered as perfectly accurate; but it is the only one to be procured now, giving a fair approximation of the number (30,000) of emigrants who landed or passed through Trebizond. To this list must be added that of the emigrants who went direct from the Caucasian coast to other Turkish ports, a list which I hope to obtain soon.

On a rough calculation, however, the latter are reckoned to be about 15,000, thus giving a total of 45,000 emigrants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 240.

List of the Transports which carried Emigrants and Cattle from the Caucasian Coast to Trebizond, or through Trebizond to other Turkish Ports.

Dates of Arrivals	Names of Transports.	Number of Emigrants.	Cattle.	
			Quantity.	Quality.
August 8 ..	Assyr	950	..	
" 9 ..	Hedaneddine	750	250	Horses.
" 9 ..	Selamli	800	100	Oxen.
" 10 ..	Mackadem Bair	900	..	
" 10 ..	Tair	..	200	Buffaloes.
" 10 ..	Sinjar	2,000	200	Mules.
" 11 ..	Mahmoudie	1,000	150	Ditto.
" 12 ..	Assari Tevfik	1,000	..	
" 12 ..	Fetih Bahrul	1,500	..	
" 12 ..	Muhsseri Sseur	600	..	
" 13 ..	Assyr	1,000	1,500	Buffaloes and oxen.
" 12 ..	Sinai Nusset	..	60	Oxen.
" 13 ..	Batoum	1,000	1,000	Sheep and goats.
" 13 ..	Medjidié	700	..	
" 13 ..	Selamli	..	270	Oxen.
" 13 ..	Shahpur	1,500	1,000	Sheep and goats.
" 14 ..	Selimie	1,900	..	
" 15 ..	Assyr	1,500	1,500	Horses.
" 19 ..	Mahmoudie	150	2,000	Ditto.
" 20 ..	Rahsan	..	1,000	Horses, sheep, and goats.
" 20 ..	Hedjaz Sakri (sailing)	950	..	
" 21 ..	Shahpur	1,000	..	
" 22 ..	Mahmoudie	600	150	Horses.
" 22 ..	Selamli	2,050	250	Sheep and goats.
" 25 ..	Assyr (with a vessel in tow) ..	..	..	
" 25 ..	Sinai Nusset (with two sailing vessels in tow)	5,000	..	
" 26 ..	Tefé	100	628	Sheep and goats.
			150	Horses.
			50	Buffaloes and oxen.
			1,000	Sheep and goats.
" 27 ..	Selimie	80	250	Sheep.
" 28 ..	Saheli	25	60	Horses.
" 31 ..	Shahpur	500	400	Sheep and goats.
" 31 ..	Tefé	1,500	..	
September 1 ..	Private Yacht (British ownership) ..	100	..	
" 1 ..	Assr Allah	250	..	
" 2 ..	Saheli	150	800	Ditto.
	Totals	30,855	12,964	

About half the above immigrants and cattle have been landed at Trebizond, the remainder in ports between this and Samsoon.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 241.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 54. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, September 4, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch which I address this day to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, in continuation of my despatch No. 70 of the 31st ultimo, on the subject of the repatriation of Mingrelian immigrants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 241.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to Mr Layard.

Sir, *Trebizond, September 4, 1877.*

IN continuation of my despatch of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to transmit copy of a telegram which I have addressed this day to your Excellency:—

"Ibrahim Pasha, having received no direct application from Mingrelians, ignores there being any willing to return to their country. He has communicated Grand Vizier's order to Committee sitting on Abazian affairs for its guidance, but hitherto no emigrants have asked to be repatriated. However, on removal of emigrants from Trebizond to other Ottoman ports, the Pasha intends keeping behind those who may have objections to present."

Ibrahim Pasha informed me, as stated above, that he had received the Grand Vizier's order to allow the Mingrelians to return to their country, and that he had transmitted it to the Committee sitting on Abazian affairs for its guidance, but that he had received no petition from anyone on the subject, and that, to his knowledge, and to that of the Committee, there were no emigrants willing to go back to Russia.

I expressed my astonishment at his saying of not being acquainted with a rumour which was the talk of all the town, and added that, although no petition had been addressed to him direct, he had in his hands that seized by the police, bearing the signatures of the Mingrelians, and of several other Christian Caucasians. He answered that it had been concocted by a Greek schoolmaster, and signed by the emigrants without their knowing its contents. I then pointed out to the Pasha that I had heard the statements embodied in the petition from the lips of some of those who signed it, before it was drawn up; that I had spoken to him on the subject on two different occasions; that I was reputed to him the same statement, and that it was very easy for him to ascertain whether there were any emigrants willing to return to their country.

Ibrahim Pasha answered that he did not consider it his duty to make inquiries; and on my asking whether he wanted that I should send him one of the petitioners who was living near my house, he did not answer in the affirmative, but left it to my option. I limited myself to transmit to him by my Dragoman a list of the names of the Mingrelians and other Christian emigrants from whom I had heard the statement, leaving it to him to take, under the circumstances, such further steps as he might consider necessary.

The Pasha has ordered the Committee to ascertain whether there were any Caucasians willing to be repatriated, but the result, in my opinion, will be null, unless the Mingrelians hear of the circumstance, and make themselves applications.

I tried to impress on Ibrahim Pasha that the main point in the present case should not be sacrificed to the question of formalities, and that his Government would be more thankful to him for ridding them of unwilling emigrants, rather than for trying to conceal the fact of there being even a few hundred of this category among the many thousands who took refuge in Turkey; that the very fact of those willing to return being sent back would leave no doubt as to the others having emigrated spontaneously, and would avoid all future claims at a future period.

But the Pasha is, I think, labouring under the apprehension that the example of a few returning might be contagious for many others. I believe, on the contrary, that, at this moment especially, when Abazians have arrived, stating that they escaped with difficulty from the Russians, very few, if any, will decide to return to the Caucasus.

There is, however, a circumstance which may induce all the Christian emigrants to go

back to Russia, that is, the unaccountable manner of the authorities insisting to have buried by Imams all those who happen to die.

No later than the 2nd instant, after having been freely administered the sacraments at the hands of a Greek priest, a Christian emigrant was buried by the Mussulmans in one of their cemeteries, in spite of the noisy opposition of his co-religionists, who now wish to obtain permission to remove the remains to a Christian burial-ground.

The claim laid by the Mussulmans on the corpses of the Christians is the more astonishing that they allow them during their lifetime to exercise openly and without hindrance all their religious duties, such as christening, attending to church, &c.

But to come back to the main question, the Pasha has promised that, on the removal to other Ottoman places of the emigrants, he would embark first those who were willing to be transferred, leaving behind those who might have objections to make. The first embarkation of emigrants at Trebizond has taken place on Sunday last.

I cannot conceal from your Excellency the fact that my communications to the Pasha, although made in the most friendly terms, do not seem to be very palatable to him, nor to the other Ottoman functionaries, who sometimes make observations bordering on contempt.

On one of my former interviews with the Pasha, when speaking of the Abazian Christian child buried by the Mussulmans against the will of his parents, the Mektoobji (Government Secretary), who was present, asked how it was that nothing was said to Russia when she made compulsory conversions.

On the last interview one of the members of the Abazian Committee called to take the Pasha's orders, and on being asked by him said that none of the Mingrelians had demanded to be sent back to their country, and added that he could not understand why they applied to the Consuls and not to the local authorities, who, however, furnished them their means of subsistence.

Later, the Pasha himself said that observations were made to Turkey on all occasions, while nothing was said to Russia in identical acts, and as an illustration he cited the case of the murders of the foreign Consuls at Salonica, and that of their own Consul at Tiflis.

I was compelled to tell the Pasha that I had called on him to speak of the Abazians and not of generalities.

I understand that a Petition signed by about thirty Mingrelians and other Caucasian Christians, having been presented a few hours ago to the Pasha of Trebizond, begging that they should be allowed to return to their country, he answered at first that he would refer their Petition to the Abazian Committee, but shortly after returned it to them, saying that when the proper moment arrived they would be free to do so, but that their wives and children would be detained here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 242.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 19.)

(No. 55. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, September 7*, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch addressed to me by Mr. Consular Agent Doulcet, of Samsoon, on the 5th instant, on the subject of the Caucasian emigrants who were landed in that town; and copy of a petition which a few Christians among them addressed to the Consular Body of that place, complaining of religious pressure on the part of the Mussulmans.

However, in a private letter written me by Mr. Doulcet on the same day, but at a later hour, he informs me that there is no truth in the report that Abazian Christians have been put in prison, as he stated officially, on account of religious questions.

Although the statements of the Christian emigrants at Trebizond and Samsoon may be exaggerated, it is remarkable, however, that in both places they should have addressed petitions to the Consuls on the subject of religious pressure.

At the same time, the important fact must be noted that, while the Christian emigrants at Trebizond complain of having been removed here against their will, those at Samsoon, far from making a similar statement, protest, on the contrary, of their desire to be for ever faithful Ottoman subjects.

Is it not possible, in presence of these facts, to suppose that the suspicion of being

objects of Mahommedan proselytism, awakened by a few imprudent acts of over-zealous Mussulmans, and confirmed by the gossip of timorous native Christians, should have induced the Caucasian Christians landed at Trebizond to adduce their having been removed against their will, and their desire to return to their country as the only means to recover their religious freedom.

As the Porte will no doubt give strict orders to the Governors of the provinces to allow the Christian emigrants all liberty in the exercise of their religion, their present fears will subside, and perhaps with them the desire of the emigrants of Trebizond to return to Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 1 in No. 242.

Consular Agent Doulcet to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

M. le Vice-Consul, *Samsoon, le 5 Septembre*, 1877.

J'AI reçu avant hier votre lettre du 30 Août passé relative aux émigrés Abazes, et à laquelle je m'empresse de répondre.

Le nombre de ces émigrés se trouvant à Samsoon est d'environ 8,000. Une partie a été logée dans la ville même, dans des bains, cafés et autres établissements publics ou particuliers que l'on a affectés complétement à cela; et les autres ont été installés hors la ville, à des distances plus ou moins éloignées dans des bâtiments appartenant à l'état ou à des particuliers, et dans des barraques que l'on a construites exprès.

Toutes ces installations laissent naturellement beaucoup à désirer sous tous les rapports, et il serait grandement à craindre que si les émigrés devaient rester longtemps dans ces conditions, leur santé eut beaucoup à souffrir. Jusqu'à présent, fort heureusement, aucune de ces maladies épidemiques qui résultent de l'entassement ne s'est produite, et la santé des personnes dont nous nous occupons est, en somme, assez satisfaisante.

Celles-ci reçoivent du Gouvernement, les grandes une demie oque, et les petites quart d'oque de pain par jour. C'est fort insuffisant pour ceux qui n'ont pas d'autre ressource, et il y en aurait beaucoup dans ce cas, m'a-t-on assuré.

D'après les renseignements que j'ai pu recueillir, il y aurait environ 200 familles Chrétiennes parmi ces émigrés. Il paraîtrait que celles-ci rencontrent une grande opposition de la part de l'autorité locale dans le libre exercice de leur religion, que des agents leur sont fréquemment dépêchés pour les engager à se convertir à l'Islamisme, et que l'on a été jusqu'à emprisonner quelques personnes pour avoir été faire leurs dévotions dans des églises Chrétiennes.

Il est assez difficile de se procurer des renseignements précis au sujet de ces questions, par suite de la difficulté de s'expliquer avec les émigrés, dont peu de personnes connaissent la langue, et qui ne savent pas s'expliquer dans aucune des langues répandues chez nous.

Cependant quelques-uns de ceux-ci ont adressé aux divers Agents Consulaires à Samsoon une pétition collective, et dont vous trouverez ci-joint copie, duquel document il ressort que l'on cherche à exercer sur les Chrétiens une pression pour les empêcher de s'avouer connus tels, et de pratiquer librement leur religion. Cette pétition m'a été communiqué hier seulement par mon collègue de Grèce.

Jusqu'à présent aucun des émigrés arrivés ici n'a été déplacé; mais il paraîtrait que l'on a tenté, ces jours derniers, d'en expédier 500 à Amasia. Ceux-ci étant en grand nombre Chrétiens, auraient refusé de se rendre dans cette ville, et auraient demandé à être envoyés dans des lieux habités déjà par d'autres Chrétiens.

On me dit qu'environ 7,000 émigrés se trouvent repartis dans les villes d'Ormia, Fatza, et Therme, et que parmi ceux-ci il existe un très grand nombre de Chrétiens, lesquels rencontreraient les mêmes difficultés à rester dans leur religion que rencontrent ceux qui se trouvent à Samsoon.

Les communications avec ces points et autres de la côte où existent encore des émigrés, tels que Sinope, Inboli, &c., étant fort rares, il me sera difficile d'avoir au sujet de ces derniers de prompts et exacts renseignements. Je ferai cependant le possible pour vaincre cette difficulté autant qu'il dépendra de moi.

Je vous prierai de me faire savoir la ligne de conduite qu'il pourra convenir que je tienne dans l'interêt des Abazes Chrétiens.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) A. DOULCET.

Inclosure 2 in No. 242.

Christian Abanians to the Consular Body at Samsoon.

Samsoon, le 20 Août / 1 Septembre 1877.

Messieurs,

NOUS, soussignés, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance, Messieurs, qu'étant depuis notre naissance Chrétiens appartenant à diverses églises, nous avons consenti à laisser notre patrie et suivre les troupes Ottomanes avec l'espoir que d'après les lois de l'Empire Ottoman nous serions libres de fonctionner partout que nous allons notre religion.

Etant arrivés depuis quelques jours à Samsoon nous observons avec grand regret que parmi ceux du pays qui par curiosité viennent nous visiter s'en trouvent des personnes qui cherchent par des menaces à nous empêcher d'avouer notre religion. Voyant, donc, que nous risquons de perdre la religion que nous avons appris à adorer, nous recourons à vous, Messieurs, et vous supplions de vouloir bien, ayant pitié de nous, vous donner la peine d'intervenir auprès l'autorité locale afin qu'elle puisse être persuadée à donner les ordres nécessaires et consentir à nous laisser libres de rester dans la religion paternelle, et séparés des autres émigrants, bien entendu que nous désirons rester pour toujours fidèles sujets Ottomans.

En vous remerciant d'avance, nous nous prions, Messieurs, de vouloir bien prendre la peine d'être les interprètes de nos sentiments auprès de l'autorité locale, à qui nous serons éternellement reconnaissants et fidèles, et veuillez, &c.

Les Emigrants Chrétiens,
(Signé) IVAN AGERBAIEFF.
Pour le Mingrélien Fedor Tchenova, qui ne connaît pas écrire en Russe, a signé sur sa demande,
J. AGERDA.
FEDOR KERINENKO, *Soldat.*
NICOLAOS PERSOPOULOS.
Une signature illisible.

No. 243.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 61. Political.)

Canea, Crete, September 8, 1877.

My Lord,

THE petition signing in Apokorona under the auspices of the Committee which has been sitting there for the last month, having at last received all its signatures, amounting to nearly 5,000, was yesterday delivered to the Vali to whom it is addressed. Copies of it have been left at each Consulate, as well as a memorandum addressed to the Consuls, both which documents I found at my office yesterday morning, where they had been left by some person deputed by the Committee. The former, of which I shall do myself the honour to transmit your Lordship a translation next week, reiterates the demands made by the last two General Assemblies for the introduction of changes in the Organic Law.

This document has been signed by deputies from the sub-districts of Sphakia, Rethymo, Apokorona, Haghios, Basilios, Arghyropolis, and Mylopotamos. The sub-districts of Cydonia (Canea), Selino, and Kissamos abstained from sending deputies, with the praiseworthy object of not adding to the alarm which the movement was causing among the Mussulmans dwelling in their midst; but, as they had repeatedly assured the Pasha that they fully sympathized with the cause taken up by their brethren, his Excellency prudently permitted them to sign a petition in Canea, which is conceived in the same sense as the former one, but, having been drawn up under the eyes of the authorities, it is naturally less independent in tone. A similar permission to present a petition has also been given to the inhabitants of the eastern half of the island, who are now engaged in procuring the requisite signatures.

There is still some doubt as to whether the Committee in Apokorona, who are twenty-four in number, will disperse. They have declared to the Pasha their intention of remaining assembled until an answer to their petition shall be returned by the Porte, as they argue that if they dissolved no further heed would be taken of their wishes. As, however, most of the Christians themselves appear desirous of avoiding any crisis which might lead to a conflict with the authorities, for which they are quite unprepared, there is a

reasonable hope that the Committee may see the wisdom of quietly returning to their homes.

Meanwhile the Mussulman peasants who had fled from their homes are still congregated in Canea, and the surrounding villages and farm-houses. Some of them were yesterday sent for by the Vali, who told them plainly that he could no longer tolerate their presence here, as there was no hope of society returning to its normal state as long as they were thus out of their proper sphere. As they are too much under the influence of a few designing men in this town who seem bent on producing disorders in the island, they replied that they would not return except on three conditions: (1) The apprehension and punishment of the murderers of the two shepherds reported in my despatch No. 55 of the 18th ultimo; (2) The putting down of sheep-stealing, from which they have suffered greatly; and (3) The dispersion of the Christian Committee in Apokorona, which is regarded by them as a standing menace to public tranquillity. I would remark on the first two points that they are merely symptoms of the weakness of the local Government whose authority is in abeyance in the mountains where the assassins of the shepherds are hiding, and whence bands of sheep-stealers descend to prey on the flocks of the peasantry; but where a Mussulman proprietor loses his ten sheep his Christian neighbour will miss 100, because his flocks are ten times as numerous. The Christians equally with the Mussulmans are anxious to repress these disorders, and to this end a large Christian village whose flocks feed on the northern slopes of Mount Ida, finding that the Government cannot protect them, has adopted the expedient of forming a band of armed men, shepherd proprietors themselves, who in return for a certain fixed payment, have engaged to make good from their own flocks all losses which may befall those belonging to the village, and the plan is working exceedingly well. In the mountainous regions of this district special companies have been enrolled and armed by the Government to keep marauders at a distance.

While the Mussulman peasantry have thus cause to complain of sheep-stealing, their conduct since their arrival in this neighbourhood has not been irreproachable. I lately visited a village an hour from here, and found that they had turned the Christians, forming a moiety of the population, out of their houses, and the latter had sought hospitality at the next village, where the presence of a company of regular soldiers affords them complete protection. While resting in the house of a principal inhabitant I was visited by several of the ejected villagers, who told me the Moslem women had entered their dwellings uninvited, and, their husbands being armed, they had not dared to oppose their entry. The occupation of a place by an enemy could not have been carried out in a more peaceable manner, and once entered on possession, they seem to have exercised all the rights of conquerors. They allowed their flocks to graze in the vineyards and olive groves of the dispossessed inhabitants, and, not content with eating their grapes, they loaded their mules with the produce and drove them to town for sale. I thought it my duty to bring this state of things to the notice of the Pasha, who speedily put an end to the practice, but his Excellency seems to think it beyond his power to reinstate the Christians in their houses again. Having lost the produce of their vintage, the inhabitants run the risk of losing their olives also, the season for gathering which is nigh at hand. Did these things occur in the mountains the Government would have some excuse, but occurring, as they do, within an hour of the town where their authority is uncontested, a greater display of energy would have prevented the scandal.

I am glad to observe that a partial disarmament of the Mussulmans is now being carried out, and, all things considered, the state of affairs is less menacing than formerly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 244.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 1057.)

Therapia, September 8, 1877.

My Lord,

MR. BLUNT informs me that the first acts of Ahmed Vefyk Pasha, on taking possession of his Government at Adrianople, have produced a very good impression. His Excellency has shown an earnest desire to attend to the representations of the people. He has visited the hospitals, and is making arrangements for the comfort of the wounded soldiers, who are brought from the front. He received Mr. Blunt and Mr. Dupuis immediately after his arrival, and expressed his wish that they should communicate with

him freely on any subject relating to the public welfare. Mr. Blunt writes to me in a private letter—

"During our private interview, which was friendly and even cordial, the Pasha himself broached the subject of the executions, and spoke in a humane way, and gave me the impression that he was very much disposed towards clemency. He told me confidentially that he would avail himself of the coming Ramazan, in order to impress upon the Mahommedans, through their Hodjas, to whom he would issue special instructions on the subject, that it is in accordance with the teaching of the Koran to forgive and not to nourish vindictive feelings against their misguided neighbours during this sacred fast."

I earnestly hope that Ahmed Vefyk Pasha will carry out the good intentions with which he assured me he was animated when he left Constantinople for his important post. He has fulfilled his promise to receive Her Majesty's Consul with kindness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 245.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 19.)

(No. 1059.) *Therapia, September* 8, 1877.

My Lord,

THE nature of the services performed by the Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks in the Turkish armies appears to be so little understood in Europe that I venture to give your Lordship the following extract from a letter to me from Colonel Lennox on the subject:—

"The question of the Circassians and of the Bashi-Bazouks is becoming one of serious importance. People in Europe will consider that they are enrolled as irregular troops, whereas really they do not appear (with a few exceptions) to be enrolled at all. The Circassians come when they choose and perhaps take some part in a battle, but they only think of the spoil and ride off with it to their homes as soon as possible; if ammunition waggons are taken they carry off the horses and thus make it sometimes difficult to remove these trophies of war.

"The foot Bashi-Bazouks appear on the scene after a battle and take no part whatever in the fighting, but when it is over they strip the dead, take away their arms, military and other clothing, and I fear very often mangle the dead and even kill the wounded. This is bad for the Turkish cause, and I am told that the regulars have complained of it.

"The Turks as a nation suffer also, as the rifles which are trophies of war are not received by the Government, but are kept by these Bashi-Bazouks, to whom they are moreover useless, as they have not any ammunition for them. The proper course would appear to be to order all arms taken from the Russians to be at once handed over to the (civil ?) authorities and to punish severely any who do not at once obey. Quantities of Winchester rifles have been issued to Circassians who are not now doing any military duty, and they ought to be recovered, and no Circassians who are not enrolled should be allowed to have Winchesters. The question of getting back the Winchesters is a much more difficult one than that of the Russian arms, as the latter are useless to the men. All officers and non-commissioned officers should be enjoined to prevent civilians from stripping the dead, wounded, and prisoners, for it is disgraceful. I saw on the 17th ultimo three prisoners who were being marched to Shumla with hardly any clothes on, and those only under-clothing."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 246.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 19.)

(No. 1060.) *Therapia, September* 8, 1877.

My Lord,

M. KALERGI, the Secretary to the Greek Legation, called upon me yesterday afternoon by direction of the Greek Minister to read to me a despatch addressed to him by M. Tricoupi. M. Coundouriotis was informed in it that the Greek Government protested against the increase of the Turkish force in the fort of Punta, at the southern entrance of the Gulf of Arta, and the construction of entrenchments near it, as a violation of the

VIth Article of the Treaty of 9th July, 1832. M. Coundouriotis was further directed to present a note to the Porte declaring that the Greek Government considered the Circular of the Turkish Government of the 25th ultimo, stating that ships would not be allowed to pass through the Strait ("passe") of Prevesa after sunset, as a similar violation of the Treaty, and that the Greek Government, therefore, treated it as null and void ("nul et non-avenu").

M. Kalergi added that a note to that effect had been written and would be presented in the course of the day to the Porte, and that as regarded the protest of the Greek Government with respect to the proceedings of the Turks at Punta, M. Coundouriotis had made it verbally to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 247.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 19.)

(No. 1061.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 8, 1877.

REDIF and Abdul Kerim Pashas, Khoulousi Pasha (who surrendered the Shipka pass to the Russians), and others, who were to be tried by a special Commission, have been sent to the Island of Lemnos, there to remain until their trial can be resumed after the end of the war.

This measure is attributed to the influence of Mahmoud Damat Pasha, who is accused of wishing to screen his former colleague Redif Pasha. It has consequently produced an unfavourable impression upon public opinion, the more so as their trial had already commenced, and to remove them to another place in the middle of it is contrary to the law.

I am not fully aware of the motives for this step. It is stated that the trial of these high officials during the war might give rise to disclosures and recriminations which might prove very prejudicial to the interests of the State. Such may be the case, but it is thought that these considerations should have weighed before and not after the trial had begun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 248.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 19.)

(No. 1062. Secret.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 10, 1077.

SERVER PASHA read to me to-day a telegram, received from the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at Vienna, giving an account of a conversation he had had with Count Andrassy with reference to the attitude of Servia. Tourhan Bey had been instructed to ask the Austro-Hungarian Prime Minister what course he intended to pursue in the event of Russia wishing to send troops through Servia for the purpose of military operations, or of the Servians attacking Turkey.

Count Andrassy is stated to have replied that he still held the Emperor to his promise not to send his troops through Servian territory into Turkey, and he had no reason to believe that His Imperial Majesty had any intention of departing from it. But, Tourhan Bey asked, if, under the pretence of their being Roumanian troops, or under some other pretext, such as was used during the Servian war of last year, Russia were to send men through Servia to fall upon Turkey, what would Austria do? Count Andrassy is stated to have replied, "Alors je serais trompé, et je ne veux pas être trompé."

To the question of whether Austria would interpose should the Servians, at the instigation and with the connivance of Russia, attack Turkey, Count Andrassy answered that, should such be the case, the Turkish Government would be at liberty to take such measures as it might think fit to meet or prevent the attack, and that he should not interfere.

Server Pasha told me that he has observed of late a change in Count Zichy's language; it was much more favourable to Turkey than it had previously been. His Excellency had even that morning pointedly said that the Emperor of Austria and Count

Andrassy felt much sympathy for Turkey, words which Server Pasha thought Count Zichy would not have used unless authorized to do so.

Server Pasha further called my attention to the fact that, in his telegram, Tourhan Bey states that Count Andrassy had asked him why Suleiman Pasha had attacked the Shipka Pass in front instead of sending his army across the Balkans and taking the Russian positions in the rear, suggesting that by doing so even now he might cause very serious embarrassment to the Russians. This was the first time, his Excellency said, that he had received advice from Austria, which showed a desire on her part to assist Turkey against Russia.

I had also been struck by a marked change in Count Zichy's language about Turkey. Speaking to me yesterday with reference to Servia, he expressed himself very strongly against the conduct of Prince Milan and the Servian Government, adding that he had advised Server Pasha, in case of an attack from Servia, to send 15,000 or 20,000 Bashi-Bazouks across the frontier, adding that if the Porte did so no one could blame it for taking this measure, or for the consequences. I asked Server Pasha whether Count Zichy had really given this advice, and he replied that, to his astonishment, he had.

I inquired of Server Pasha whether the Porte had come to any decision as to the measures that it would take to meet, or prevent, an attack from Servia. His Excellency replied that the Council of War was discussing a plan for this object. He promised to let me know what the plan was as soon as it was settled. Count Zichy seems persuaded that internal difficulties, owing to the opposition of a strong party to a second war with Turkey, and the want of adequate resources and preparations, will prevent Prince Milan and the Servian Government from engaging in hostilities with Turkey.

The Servian Agent, M. Christich, seems to think that there is an understanding between Austria and Russia, and that the former is inciting the Turks to attack Servia in order to avail herself of a pretext for entering and annexing Bosnia, which, he considers, would be a fatal blow to the national aspirations of his country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 249.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 1063.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 11, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Blunt, reporting the arrival of the new Vali of Adrianople, Ahmed Vefyk Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 249.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, September 3, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency of the arrival here on the 1st instant of Ahmed Vefyk Pasha, the newly-appointed Vali of Adrianople.

Ibrahim Pasha, whom he replaces, left on the following day for the capital, leaving behind him a fair reputation as a provincial administrator.

The appointment to this vilayet of so able, energetic, and distinguished a statesman as Ahmed Vefyk Pasha has created among all classes of the population a good impression, which has been confirmed by his Excellency's friendly and courteous reception of the heads of the non-Mahommedan communities, and by the measures he has already carried out.

The new Vali has dismissed three Kaïmakams whom he considered incompetent. He visited the military hospitals the day after his arrival, and ordered certain modifications to be made with a view to the greater convenience and comfort of the sick, and in short is hourly giving proof of his active interest in the public good.

During the interviews which I have had with Ahmed Vefyk Pasha his Excellency has taken occasion to encourage me to furnish him with information on local affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 250.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 1064.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 11, 1877.*

CONSUL BLUNT wrote to me on the 7th ultimo:—

"Your Excellency will be glad to hear that I get on very well with Ahmed Vefyk Pasha. I find him very energetic, and determined to protect the Christians against the depredations of the Circassians. He watches the proceedings of the Court-martial. Yesterday he ordered the release of three native Greeks, who have been detained in prison more than a month on what appeared to have been a groundless charge. The Greek Archbishop, the Armenian Bishop, the Grand Rabbi, and the Bulgarian Vakil, all speak in terms of gratitude and praise of the interest his Excellency takes in their respective communities. He receives them kindly, and encourages them to communicate freely with him on public affairs."

The German Ambassador has spoken to me more than once on what he considers the excessive number of executions of Bulgarians, who have been tried by Court-martial at Adrianople and Philippopolis. I have requested Mr. Blunt to send me a list of those who have suffered death. I believe that they amount to between 150 and 200. But, as I have already pointed out to your Lordship, official interference in a matter of this nature would scarcely be warranted or desirable. I am neglecting no opportunity of impressing upon the Turkish Ministers privately the importance of avoiding unnecessary severity in dealing with the unfortunate men who have been induced to take part in the insurrection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 251.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 1065.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 11, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of two letters addressed to me by Mr. Consul-General Fawcett, containing a most deplorable account of the sufferings of the remaining Christian inhabitants of the towns of Carlova and Sopot. I have telegraphed to Mr. Fawcett, who is, I believe, at Adrianople, to communicate the substance of his letter to Ahmed Vefyk Pasha, this course appearing to me preferable to bringing the matter to the notice of the Porte, and more likely to lead to immediate steps being taken to put an end to the shocking state of affairs he describes.

Your Lordship will observe what Mr. Fawcett states of the former flourishing state of these two towns. It fully confirms the accounts that are given by all those who have visited the Bulgarian districts of their happy and prosperous condition before the Bulgarians were induced by foreign intrigues and encouragement to engage in an insurrection which has brought ruin and slaughter upon them.

Mr. Fawcett, who, on the arrival at Constantinople of Mr. Assistant Judge Burrell, had kindly offered to spend a short holiday he wished to take in visiting Rasmalia and in distributing relief from Lady Burdett Coutts' "Compassionate Fund" to the sufferers from the Russian invasion, will now return to Constantinople. He has furnished me with valuable information, and has done much towards relieving a great amount of misery and suffering. I trust that your Lordship will approve of my having permitted him to absent himself for a short period from his post on so humane and useful a mission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 251.

Mr. Fawcett to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Carlova, September 3, 1877.*

I AM writing this late, under considerable difficulties, and after three days very hard work, under almost tropical heat. Two gentlemen asked to be allowed to help us in distributing,—one of Lady Strangford's assistants, and the Commissioner for the "Times"

here. So far they have worked admirably in distributing, and I am therefore very glad to have their aid.

We passed the plain from Philippopoli, meeting on our way eighty Bulgarians from Carlova, going to be hanged, 300 wounded Turks from Shipka, in 300 arabas, and passed a mile and a-half of baggage-mules for Suleiman Pasha. We arrived at dark some five miles from Carlova, and camped in a harvest-field, and were obliged to keep sentry all night, on account of marauding bands of Circassians, &c., we had seen at nightfall. If you do not know Carlova, I may mention that it is one of the principal seats of the shyak manufactory, and one of the most beautifully situated towns I ever saw; it has 3,000 houses, and scarcely one a mean one. Every house has its garden, and in nearly every garden is running water. Every conceivable sort of fruit and vegetable abounds,—the main features of this place (and of Sopot, which I speak of afterwards) is the amount of running water everywhere; the vines hang from house to house in every street,—and the great air of prosperity of the whole place. Last of all, the Balkans, rising like a wall some 3,000 feet.

On entering Carlova, we found the arabas we had sent on; but, on riding through the streets, there was the silence of death,—no one to be seen, all the houses barred; no shops open. Arrived at the konak, we saw the Mudir, and told him our mission. He received us very well, but told us there were not many Ottoman families in want actually in Carlova, but many in the neighbouring villages, whom he would call in. I proposed to return there. He said they were not very urgent, but he begged me not to leave the place without helping the Bulgarians, who were starving in hundreds. We sent two arabas on at once to Sopot, and followed ourselves.

If the aspect of Carlova was appalling, that of Sopot was really awful. The same beautiful country, the same running streams and trim gardens, but not a house standing; half the place burnt, and every house and shop ransacked from top to bottom, and everywhere a horribly mingled smell of attar of roses and putrifying human flesh. It is needless for me to dwell on these sickening details, I will only say that, out of ten houses and gardens which I entered, three contained human corpses, half covered—one that of a young woman, with her light hair showing above the soil. We found the captain and Chaoush (Turkish authorities) excellent men; the Chaoush, the people say, is their father; he himself went into the Balkans and brought these 500 or 600 poor creatures back, giving his word they should not be injured.

We gave flour and rice to half of these yesterday, and I have just returned from finishing the rest at Sopot, and have left them some money to buy soap and salt with, as they say they have had none for forty days; 630 have been relieved at Sopot, and to-day we have relieved 590 here, 300 of whom were absolutely starving in the beautiful church of the place. As to what has exactly happened here, I must ask to defer till I can next write. There are 150 Mussulman families in the district to be relieved yet, and some hundreds of Bulgarians.

Mr. Long's agents passed through Sopot to-day, but having only money, and there being nothing to buy, it was actually refused by the Turkish Chaoush. I am writing this almost in the dark. I hope to get it to Philippopoli to-morrow morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HENRY FAWCETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 251.

Mr. Fawcett to Mr. Layard.

Carlova, September 5, 1877.

Sir,

IN the last very hurried report I sent you, and which I hope will reach you, I endeavoured to give you some faint idea of the present state of the formerly prosperous towns of Carlova and Sopot. I reckon there could not have been less than 20,000 inhabitants in Carlova and 10,000 in Sopot; and, from the appearance of the houses, I don't believe such a thing as poverty existed in either place. I left a small sum of money with the two Turkish officers at Sopot, who are a credit to their race, to buy salt and soap, the people having had neither for five weeks, and I feared an outbreak of scurvy. Within three hours their arabas were here loading and taking it back. Sopot exists no more; but the 600 women and children there are safe from violence while those two men are there. They gave two young Turks a severe beating in my presence who had been attempting to violate some young girls while we were there. Carlova, however, is in a different state. I don't think I am in the least exaggerating when I tell you that, including fugitives from

Kalofer and Sopot, there are over 5,000 women and children in this place, and they have had, they say, nothing but grapes and vegetables since the Russians were here—no bread, no salt, no soup.

The place was visited by two bands of Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks, who remained there until some regulars arrived. In that time they turned this beautiful wealthy town into a desert, and it was only saved from burning by the arrival of the troops. These ruffians appear to have been actuated by a love of plunder alone, as they took the property of Turks and Bulgarians alike; the Chaoush at Sopot telling me that they took his cattle and all that he had.

If these plundering visitations at Carlova had ended, the people would be a little more at ease and not in the state of abject terror in which we found them, without any exception; but plundering and violation of women I regret to say I am bound to believe goes on here daily, without much attempt at repression from the authorities. Yesterday we found a dozen women in one house uttering piercing shrieks; thinking it was an attack by Bashi-Bazouks, we entered the house, and found that a friendly Turk had brought them the sad news that four men, their husbands and brothers, who had been hiding till now, had gone out by desire of the Turk, to work in his harvest field and he had found them all murdered.

I entered about fifty houses, and in all found marks of a very superior civilization; in one there was elegant European furniture smashed to atoms and some numbers of the "Times." Every house was wrecked from top to bottom, and nothing but women and children in them. I don't think there are more than twenty or thirty Bulgarian men in the place. Your Excellency can picture to yourself the state of these people—without food, without lights, passing the night in mortal terror; often in the night we hear them screaming, I presume for some new outrage.

The men of Sopot are, most of them, at a large monastery over the Balkans; those of Carlova are either in the Balkans or with the Russians. I asked the Mudir here point blank, if they could be induced to come in, what he would do with them. His reply was, send them to Philippopoli, one and all, which, as far as I can see, means to be hanged. I got a message from Mr. Calvert yesterday evening that at Adrianople and Philippopoli there had been, during the last few days, batches of thirty and forty hanged.

During the last three weeks, as you know, I have seen much suffering of Turkish women and children, wounded, starving, dying of fever. This is the other side of the terrible picture. I don't think this state of affairs can be known at Stamboul.

I understand from your Excellency that Achmet Vefyk was coming as Vali to Adrianople. You, I think, have influence with him. I ask your Excellency, in the name of humanity, to take some steps that these wretched women and children may have some protection and may be able to go about the streets, or even get in the prolific harvest, which is all around, in safety. As to the men, I can only think that the authorities have come to the conclusion that they will exterminate the Bulgarian race in these parts. I am aware the Turks have had great provocation, but such deeds as have been and are going on here must, if known, bring down on their perpetrators the execration of the world; and, looking at them from a political point of view, it is suicidal if the Turkish Government wish to have the sympathy of Europe.

Your Excellency knows I have no sympathy with the Bulgarians, either with their childish idea of insurrection, or their abominable cruelty when they think they are safe in wreaking vengeance on their masters; but I am bound to tell you the truth, which I have done. In this place there is now no security for life nor woman's honour—the property is all gone; and I ask your Excellency to use your influence to put an end to such an awful state of things.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. H. FAWCETT.

No. 252.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 1067.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 11, 1877.*

AMONGST those who were implicated in the murder of the German and French Consuls last year at Salonica, three were condemned to imprisonment for five years, and were sent to undergo their punishment in the fortress of Widdin. When the war broke out they were removed with other prisoners to Salonica, and the Pasha of that place released them, informing the Porte that he had done so. According to the statement of

Server Pasha, the Governor received at once a peremptory order to arrest them, and to place them again in prison—an order which was at once obeyed. In the meanwhile the German Ambassador addressed a note to the Turkish Government, of which the following has been communicated to me as the substance:—

"Il résulte des rapports Consulaires que Kurd Ali et autres qui avaient été condamnés à cinq ans de travaux forcés pour leur participation au meurtre, et qui, au dire de la Sublime Porte, subissent leur peine dans la forteresse de Widdin, sont arrivés à Salonique, où ils se promènent en pleine liberté. En présence de ces faits, qui portent atteinte à la dignité de la Porte et aux engagements solennels pris envers le Cabinet de Berlin, je viens d'ordre de mon Gouvernement, prévenir votre Excellence que les faits ci-dessus une fois constatés le Gouvernement de l'Empereur se réserve toute démarche ultérieure."

The French Chargé d'Affaires also presented a note on this subject to the Porte, but in less peremptory and menacing terms.

The criminals in question having been reimprisoned before the Porte received the German and French notes, the matter has gone no further. Server Pasha informs me that Prince Reuss expressed his regret that not having been aware of the steps taken by the Turkish Government, he had made so disagreeable a communication to his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 253.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 1068. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 11, 1877.*

I HAVE endeavoured to make the Servian Agent at the Porte feel the great danger that Servia would run if she engaged in another war with Turkey, notwithstanding the representations made to her by those Powers through whose intervention she was able, some months ago, to obtain an honourable and advantageous peace with Turkey. M. Christich, who is an honourable man, and is quite alive to the risks which his country is running in placing herself entirely in the hands of Russia to attack Turkey, assures me that he has done his best to dissuade his Government from following a policy which, he is convinced, may prove in the end disastrous to the Principality. When the intelligence reached Constantinople that Prince Milan had, at length, entered into a formal engagement with the Emperor of Russia to make war on Turkey, and that he was to receive subsidies for that purpose, M. Christich telegraphed at once to M. Ristich to represent to him the ill-impression that this information had produced at the Porte, and that measures would probably be taken without delay to meet, or anticipate, any attack on the part of Servia. He received yesterday a telegram in reply from M. Ristich, telling him that the reports which had reached Constantinople as to the conclusion of an arrangement between Prince Milan and the Emperor of Russia were greatly exaggerated, and authorizing him to give assurances to that effect to the Turkish Government.

I told M. Christich, who communicated to me the substance of M. Ristich's telegram, that unfortunately the Porte had been so often deceived and misled by the assurances of Servia that it could no longer put faith in them, and that I had reason to fear that, anticipating an immediate attack on the part of Servia, it might have recourse to measures which might bring great calamities upon the Principality, from which none of the Great Powers would interfere to save her. I urged M. Christich to telegraph again to M. Ristich to warn him of the danger that Prince Milan was running. He said that he would do so at once, and promised that nothing should be wanting on his part to prevent, if possible, Prince Milan taking part in a war which could only be in the end injurious to the interests of his country, if it did not bring disasters upon her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 254.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 1069.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 11, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1038 of the 4th instant I have the honour to state that the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has expressed to me much dissatisfaction at the conduct of Her Majesty's Consul at Larnaca in addressing to the Governor of Cyprus an official letter (copy inclosed) relating to the state of affairs in the island. His Excellency said that Mr. Watkins had exceeded the limits of his Consular functions in doing so, and that he cannot admit the right of foreign Consular Agents to mix themselves up in this manner in the internal affairs of the country. His Excellency added that he would always receive with pleasure from Her Majesty's Embassy the substance of any reports sent by Her Majesty's Consular Agents, would do his best to profit by the information they gave, and would listen to any just representations that they might contain. But it was not the duty of Consuls to address official notes to the Governors and local authorities upon matters which did not directly concern them, and in which they were not, therefore, entitled to interfere.

It must be admitted that Server Pasha's complaint is not unreasonable. I had already expressed my opinion on this subject in my despatch to your Lordship before referred to. It is no doubt desirable that our Consular Agents should make friendly representations and offer friendly advice to the Turkish authorities with respect to the state of their districts and any disorders or misdeeds that may take place in them; but this is a very different thing from addressing official notes to those authorities relating to matters in which no British interests or subjects are concerned. This latter course always causes irritation, and indisposes the Turkish authorities to listen to our counsels which might otherwise produce good results.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 254.

Consul Watkins to the Governor of Cyprus.

M. le Gouverneur, *Le 7 Août, 1877.*

JE me trouve obligé d'attirer de nouveau l'attention de votre Excellence sur plusieurs faits dont la continuation ne peut avoir que des conséquences bien fâcheuses. Cette fois-ci il s'agit de faits d'un caractère plus sérieux que les premiers, et je vais vous les relater sans préambules par un exposé succinct puisé à de bonnes sources.

Le village entier d'Anghastina, caza de Famaguste, est en émoi et sous l'empire des plus grandes craintes, et ses habitants Chrétiens décidés à abandonner terres et biens pour chercher asile ailleurs. Plus d'un méfait y a été commis par des Musulmans; le meurtre aussi du nommé Costandé, tué raide sans motif par son assassin, Cadir Mehemet. Le déshonneur en plein jour d'un garçon par le frère de Cadir Mehemet, parvenu par force à assouvir sur cet enfant sa brutale passion; la violation près du village San Thérapia, caza du Kilani, d'une jeune fille par une bande de treize Turcs du village appelé Mallia et qui a succombé bientôt après, épuisé à la suite de son barbare traitement; la violation tentée par cette même troupe sur quelques garçons de Pakuchori, caza d'Orini; l'assassinat tout récent d'un jardinier Chrétien à Nicosie par un Musulman; les grandes inquiétudes dont le village de Nisso est en proie, empêchant ses habitants de vivre en sécurité et en repos; et en un mot la multiplication de plaintes de toute sorte que nous recevons de toute part de l'île, exigent indubitablement une prompte et efficace répression.

No. 255.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 1071.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 12, 1877.*

ACCORDING to information sent by Photiades Bey, the Turkish Minister at Athens, to the Porte, the German Government has sold 2,000,000 cartridges to the Greek Government; 18,000 Chassepot rifles have been landed at the Piræus, 14,000,000 drachmas are to be expended in the purchase of ironclads and torpedoes, 500 sailors are

being recruited for the Greek navy, and the young Greek officers completing their education in Europe have been ordered back to Greece. The Turkish Government is convinced that these preparations are being made with a view to an attack upon Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 256.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 102.) *Scutari, September 10, 1877.*

My Lord,

AS I understand some importance is attached to the presence of the Italian Military Officer and Deputy, Count Seristori, at the Montenegrin head-quarters, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that my Italian colleague informed me about six weeks ago that he was expecting the Count to arrive here from Italy. M. Berio said that he believed Count Seristori was coming to offer his services to the Turks, as he had served during the Crimean war under the Serdar Ekrem Omer Pasha, and otherwise represented himself as a partizan of the Turks.

On the other hand, I am told that a favourable reception was secured for the Count in Montenegro by describing him as being a strong supporter of the Slav cause in the Italian Parliament, and as being closely related to influential Russian families.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 257.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

Odessa, September 18, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

FULLER information shows that placards alluded to in my telegram of this morning purport to be text of the Emperor Alexander's letter to Prince Gortchakow, published in the "Official Gazette" of yesterday, ordering summoning of the Representatives to discuss plan of Constitution, in consequence of the critical state of affairs.

No. 258.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

St. Petersburgh, September 18, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

OFFICIAL telegram states that on 16th blockade and bombardment of Plevna continued.

On 17th, after five days' bombardment, Turks attacked Russian positions at Shipka, but, after nine hours' terrible fighting, were driven off with great loss. Russian loss also heavy. General Todleben ordered to head-quarters.

No. 259.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

St. Petersburgh, September 18, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

GENERAL TODLEBEN ordered to head-quarters.

No. 260.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 284. Political.)

My Lord, *Alexandria, September 10, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report that thirty-four more Greek volunteers left Alexandria for Corfu on the 8th instant in the Austrian Lloyd's steamer "Aurora."

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

No. 261.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 227.)

My Lord, *Athens, September 11, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to state that I called upon the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs this afternoon with reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 10th instant, and that I have fulfilled your instructions.

M. Tricoupi requested me to inform your Lordship that Greece cannot give up the right conceded to her by the Protocol of the 30th August, 1832, of maintaining an army or of declaring war. His Excellency went on to say that Turkey had no just cause for offence, and with respect to the Greek army, he said it was far from being ready to take the field.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM

No. 262.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 228.)

My Lord, *Athens, September 12, 1877.*

I CALLED upon M. Tricoupi yesterday afternoon and informed him that your Lordship had been in communication with Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of the assurances which the Greek Government are prepared to give to the Porte, which I have had the honour to lay before your Lordship in my despatches Nos. 217 and 218 of the 4th instant, and that both your Lordship and Mr. Layard were of opinion that, as the assurances of the Hellenic Government were not likely to be thought satisfactory by the Turkish Government, it would be better not to communicate them to the Porte, and I also told him that Her Majesty's Government thought it most important that the Hellenic Government should reassure the Sultan's Government as to their intentions.

M. Tricoupi replied that he could not recede from the position he had taken up with reference to the Protocol of the 30th of August, 1832, by which Greece, notwithstanding the opposition made at the time by the Porte, had obtained the right of maintaining land and sea forces without any limit being placed upon their number, and also the right of taking up arms.

I replied that I did not think this argument was applicable to the present occasion, as the right of Greece to have an army was not contested. M. Tricoupi answered that, on the contrary, it was to the point that Turkey wished to prevent Greece from having an army, in order that she should be unable to fulfil her obligations, but that Greece was determined not to forfeit the rights she had acquired, that Turkey, moreover, had no just cause for offence, and that he did not think that Europe or public opinion in Europe, which he much valued, would allow Turkey to attack the Hellenic Kingdom.

I said to M. Tricoupi that the sudden increase of an army which for long had only numbered 12,000 to 25,000 men, the ostentatious way in which the armaments of Greece were being effected, and the reports in the public press as to the intentions of Greece, had probably alarmed the Porte, and that it appeared that Her Majesty's Government had information which led them to think it most important that the Greek Government should give assurances as to their intentions towards Turkey.

With reference to the army, M. Tricoupi said that it was far from being fit to take

the field, that great difficulties were experienced in establishing the camps, and, in reply to any inquiry, he said the Krupp guns the Government had ordered had not yet arrived.

In conclusion, I have the honour to state that M. Tricoupi does not appear to have received either from M. Condouriotti or from Photiades Bey any communication of a nature to cause him anxiety.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 263.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September 20.)

Constantinople, le 19 Septembre, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

TOUT me porte à croire que les préparatifs militaires de la Grèce se poursuivent sur l'instigation de la Russie. Ce qui me confirme dans cette conviction c'est le télégramme que je viens de recevoir de Photiades Bey et que je vous transmets ci-après pour votre information :—

"On m'informe qu'un ancien Attaché Militaire de l'Ambassade de Russie à Constantinople, arrivé ici depuis quelque temps, s'est rendu au camp de Lamie. J'ai pris les mesures nécessaires pour le surveiller."

No. 264.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 20.)

Therapia, September 19, 1877.

(No. 402.)
(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIANS threaten general attack in large force on Sulina, and have given notice to "Cockatrice" to leave. She can neither, I am informed, go up the river nor remain with safety outside. As all foreigners appear to have left Sulina, is it desirable that the "Cockatrice" should still remain there? I should be glad to be able to send up instructions to Captain Musgrave, which I could do by "Rapid" now here.

No. 265.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 20.)

Therapia, September 19, 1877.

(No. 403.)
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING has been received from General Sir A. Kemball :—

"Moscow Grenadier Division is now arrived at Alexandropol. No intelligence yet of division from Kieff. No news of artillery reinforcements. Russian centre will be now sixty-five or seventy-two battalions, including eight arrived from left wing. Left wing at Igdir supposed to be no more than thirteen battalions; garrison of Ardahan eight battalions; force before Batoum unknown, perhaps one division reinforced from Soukoum Kalé. Turks advancing towards Ardahan have returned to their former positions. Moukhtar Pasha has ordered six battalions to come here from right wing. Cavalry division in direction of Kulpi ineffective."

No. 266.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 20.)

St. Petersburgh, September 20, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

GRAND DUKE telegraphs, dated Gorny Studen, Wednesday, September 19 :—

"All quiet yesterday at all points. Blockade and bombardment of Plevna continue."

No. 267.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 450. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 20*, 1877.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1040, Confidential, of the 4th instant, informing me that Server Pasha had asked you whether the Greek Government had given any distinct assurances to Her Majesty's Government that Greece would not attack Turkey, and whether, if this was so, you might be authorized to make an official communication to that effect to the Porte; and I have to state to your Excellency that the language which you employed to Server Pasha on that occasion is approved of by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 268.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 539. Secret.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 20*, 1877.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 1026, Secret, of the 31st ultimo, reporting conversations which your Excellency had with the Sultan on the occasion of His Majesty having invited you and Mrs. Layard to spend the afternoon and dine with him at his kiosk and garden at Marslak; and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which your Excellency held to His Majesty on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 269.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 69. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 20*, 1877.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 224 of the 8th instant, on the subject of the intention of Greece towards Turkey, I approve the reply which you returned to M. Tricoupi on his asking you for information as to how the question arose which was recently addressed to the Greek Government by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 270.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 21.)

Therapia, September 19, 1877.

(No. 1075.)
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1045 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to state that the German Ambassador at the Porte, having under his protection Russian subjects, has made representations to the Porte with respect to the Mingrelians who have been removed, as they allege, against their will, by the Turkish authorities, from the Circassian coast to Trebizonde. Prince Reuss is, I understand, satisfied with the explanation given on the subject to him by Server Pasha, who informed his Highness that orders had already been sent to the Governor of Trebizonde directing him to find means of transport for taking them back to their native country.

Under these circumstances I have thought it desirable to instruct Consul Biliotti not to interfere further in the matter, except by giving friendly and unofficial advice to the authorities, if required, to insure kind treatment to the emigrants in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 271.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 1076.) *Therapia, September 14, 1877.*

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 1060 of the 8th instant, I had the honour to inform your Lordship that the Greek Minister had, in pursuance of instructions from his Government, addressed a note to the Porte protesting against its Circular to foreign Powers declaring the passage of Prevesa closed to shipping after sunset. I now inclose copy of M. Coundouriotí's note.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 271.

M. Coundouriotis to Server Pasha.

Buyukdéré, le $\frac{30 \text{ Août}}{7 \text{ Septembre}}$ 1877.

M. le Ministre,

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la note Circulaire de son Excellence, en date du 25 Août, par laquelle vous m'informez que le Gouvernement Impérial vient d'interdire, provisoirement et jusqu'à nouvel avis, l'entrée et la sortie de la passe de Prévésa à tous navires et embarcations après le coucher du soleil.

La Légation du Roi, par ses notes réitérées et le Gouvernement Royal à Athènes, par sa communication à Photiades Bey, en date du 20 Août, 1867, ont démontré à la Sublime Porte l'inanité de sa prétention tendant à se constituer maîtresse du Détroit de Prévésa, par la raison qu'elle est en possession du fort de Punta, qui domine l'endroit en question.

Aussi n'ai-je pas besoin d'entrer dans de longues explications à cet égard.

Il me suffira, cependant, M. le Ministre, de rappeler à son Excellence que les droits découlant de notre qualité de Puissance rivéraine du Golfe d'Arta ne sauraient nullement être infirmés par la circonstance que la Porte possède les deux points de terre qui forment l'entrée du détroit du port de Prévésa. Il en est ainsi en vertu du principe généralement admis en cette matière, et d'après lequel à défaut de stipulation contraire la possession de deux rives à l'entrée d'une mer ou d'un golfe n'implique pas en faveur du possesseur le droit d'interdire l'accès de cette mer. Il l'est à plus forte raison par suite des conditions expresses auxquelles la cession du promontoire de Punta a été soumise par l'Acte International qui consacre cette cession.

En effet, c'est un des préceptes non contestés du droit international que la liberté des mers et des eaux ne peut être restreinte que par des stipulations formelles reconnues et acceptées par les Etats riverains. Quant aux eaux fermées, telles que golfes, rades, ports, elles appartiennent à l'Etat ou aux Etats dont elles baignent le rivage. Or, il n'existe aucune stipulation de nature à restreindre nos droits quant à l'accès du Golfe Ambracique.

Bien au contraire l'Article VI du Traité de 1832 a formellement stipulé que les autorités Ottomanes n'apporteront aucun empêchement au passage des bâtiments Grecs.

Il en résulte évidemment, M. le Ministre, que la Sublime Porte ne saurait, de sa propre autorité et sans le consentement du Gouvernement du Roi, prendre des mesures portant empêchement au passage du détroit.

Après tout ce que je viens d'exposer, je crois inutile d'entrer dans de plus longs développements et je me borne à déclarer que la notification sus-mentionnée de son Excellence ne saurait avoir aucune valeur pour la Grèce, attendu qu'on ne saurait interdire l'entrée de notre propre maison, ni à nous-mêmes ni à ceux que nous désirons y admettre.

Son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, à qui copie de la note précitée de son Excellence a été communiqué par moi, me fait savoir que le Gouvernement du Roi considère la décision prise par la Porte comme nulle et non avenue en ce qui concerne la Grèce.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) A. G. COUNDOURIOTIS.

No. 272.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 1077.) *Therapia, September 14, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 467 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to state that Photiades Bey, the Turkish Minister at Athens, has informed his Government that he had learnt from a trustworthy source that Philipon, the leader of the band which landed at Aghia, near Volo, was recommended to the Committee of the "Fraternité" at Athens by General Artemi Mihan, and received from that Committee arms, ammunition, and 15,000 fr. The same person undertook a similar expedition in 1869, which ended in the capture of its Chief. His Excellency was also informed that one of the above-mentioned band was a retired sub-lieutenant of the Greek army, named Privolon. The Greek Government having admitted the establishment of a kind of understanding with the principal Committees, Photiades Bey intended to bring these facts to the notice of M. Tricoupi, and to call his serious attention to them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 273.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 19. Political.) *Corfu, September 17, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a report received this morning from the Vice-Consul at Santa Maura relative to the most recent occurrences in that quarter of a political import.

2. A few days ago I received a visit from a Greek priest from Janina, banished, as he states, on suspicion of being a Russian partizan and an active member of the revolutionary Hetæria. He acknowledged candidly that he was implicated in the Epirus revolt of 1854, with the various phases of which he showed himself accurately acquainted. He complained that two of his sons were imprisoned at Janina as Russian accomplices, and hinted that a good word from the English Consular Agent would be sufficient to procure their liberation. He himself owed his escape in 1854 to the intercession of "Effendi Saunders" (now Sir Sidney S. Saunders), whom he regarded as the saviour of Epirus—an opinion in which the reverend gentleman is not solitary. He candidly admitted that the reports industriously circulated by the Hetærists of atrocities being committed by the Turkish soldiery are very much exaggerated. Lastly, he stated positively that perfect tranquillity prevails throughout Upper Albania, and particularly that there was not the least chance of any hostile movement on the part of the Chimariots as long as their privileges are respected by the Turks, of whom they have ever been the faithful allies.

3. Respecting the charges against Turkish soldiery in Epirus of indulging in acts of cruelty and tyranny towards the Rayahs, the alleged facts are denied in the most express terms in a printed declaration circulated here by authority a few days ago, and signed by twenty-four of the most wealthy and respectable inhabitants of Prevesa.

4. If such is really the state of discipline maintained among the soldiery, and I have no reason for believing the contrary, the danger of an insurrection in Albania is at present little to be feared.

5. The Epirots ought to know from past experience that they would suffer more in the shape of violence and plunder at the hands of their professed liberators than under their present masters.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 273.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Santa Maura, September 15, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that intelligence received here from the opposite Greek Provinces announces that a band of thirty-five men, headed by an ex-Brigand Chief named Photakis, started last week from the district of Missolonghi with the intent of crossing the frontier. In the neighbourhood of Agriquion, this band was joined by ten men under a certain Skilodimos. The Commandant of Missolonghi wired immediately to the military authorities on the frontier, whence detachments of troops have been sent against the band, which will, therefore, find it difficult to carry out its intent so long as the Greek Government is resolved to check any insurrectionary movement or brigandage on the frontier; but till now no news of its arrest or dispersion had reached this place.

2. I have nothing else to add to my last week's report as regards military movements.

A Greek sailing gunboat is expected here with war materials.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 274.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 21.)

Vienna, September 21, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

COUNT ANDRASSY, who returned from Salzburg last night, is, I am told, much pleased with his interview with Prince Bismarck, whose opinions he represents to be in entire accordance with his own, with respect to the war, and as to a mediation being at present impracticable.

No. 275.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, September 21, 1877, 3·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MR. POTTER, M.P., reports that M. Geshoff is sentenced to be executed at Constantinople on Sunday, and begs that your Excellency will do your utmost to save his life.

Use your best efforts, unless you see very strong reasons to the contrary.

No. 276.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 21.)

Therapia, September 21, 1877, 9 A.M.

(No. 404.)

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 10th instant, I have received the most explicit assurances that no pass such as that described had been given to any Greek vessel, and that the strongest instructions have been sent to military and naval authorities not to grant such passes under any circumstances whatever.

No. 278.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 544 A.)

Foreign Office, September 21, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to your telegram No. 398 of 16th instant, I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government cannot pronounce a very definite opinion on the Circular relating to the state of siege and martial law which the Porte proposes to issue to the foreign Embassies at Constantinople, as it is not sufficiently explicit; but the provision that British subjects should be liable to arrest, or that their houses might be searched in cases when the Consuls refuse to grant their assent, seems very objectionable. In such cases the matter should be referred to the Embassy, for the assent would naturally not have been withheld without good reason. The proposal that British subjects should be put on their trial, and that sentence should be executed upon them under martial law, without the intervention of their Consul, could not be admitted by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 279.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 230.)

Athens, September 15, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I called upon M. Tricoupi yesterday, and that I observed to him that I saw by the newspapers that 200 volunteers had lately arrived from Smyrna and Alexandria. M. Tricoupi replied that the Government had now instructed all their Consuls to inform the Committees who were engaged in forwarding volunteers to Greece, and persons having the intention of coming to Greece to enlist in the army, that the services of volunteers were no longer required, and that they would not be accepted; these orders, M. Tricoupi stated, had been issued not out of deference to any remonstrances on the part of the Porte but simply because no more volunteers were wanted.

The arrival of 18,771 rifles at the Piræus is reported, and a steamer is said to have left Antwerp with arms and ammunition for Greece, and all Greek officers studying abroad are said to have been recalled.

The Greek army is now said to amount to 25,000 men, concentrated, as far as I can learn, chiefly in the neighbourhood of Thebes, Lamia, and Agrinium. Much discontent is said to exist amongst the soldiers of the Reserve and amongst the volunteers, and the troops are reported to be suffering a good deal from fever. I am told the non-commissioned officers are good, but that the commissioned officers have but little knowledge of handling troops.

The finances of Greece are, I hear upon good authority, at a very low ebb, and the Government will probably have much difficulty in keeping on foot an army of 25,000 men for any length of time.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 280.

Count Menabrea to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

35, Queen's Gate, S.W., le 21 *Septembre*, 1877.

M. le Comte,

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser réception à votre Excellence de sa note, en date du 4 de ce mois, par laquelle elle a bien voulu m'informer que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique n'avait pas cru nécessaire, depuis la déclaration faite par Mr. Bourke à la Chambre des Communes, en réponse à la motion de Sir C. Dilke, d'adresser des représentations à la Sublime Porte relativement à l'effectivité du blocus sur les côtes Russes de la Mer Noire; et qu'il n'avait pas, pour le moment, aucune intention de faire des démarches à ce sujet.

Votre Excellence a bien voulu ajouter que quelques exceptions au susdit blocus étant parvenues à la connaissance du Gouvernement Anglais, l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté la

Reine à Constantinople avait reçu l'ordre d'appeler sur ces faits l'attention de la Sublime Porte, et que celle-ci aurait pris des mesures pour empêcher la répétition de ces irrégularités.

Je m'empresse d'offrir à votre Excellence tous mes remercîments pour cette obligeante communication que je n'ai pas manqué de porter à la connaissance du Gouvernement du Roi, et je saisis, &c.

(Signé) MENABREA.

No. 281.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Odessa, September 21, 1877, 5·30 P.M.*

SIMILAR placards to those mentioned in my telegram of the 18th were posted at Nicholaieff, and, I understand, at other towns in Russia.

No. 282.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 22, 1877, 3·40 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 402, you should give the Commander of the "Cockatrice" such instructions as you may think advisable under the circumstances.

No. 283.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 406.) *Therapia, September 22, 1877, 9 A.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

IN pursuance of your telegram of 10th instant, I have taken no action upon your despatch No. 488. The amended copy not having reached me, am I still to do so?

No. 284.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 407.) *Therapia, September 22, 1877, 7 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

ACCOUNT of battle yesterday, six miles from Biela, officially confirmed. Russians stated to have lost 4,000 killed and twice as many wounded.

Shefket Pasha, with forces and convoy of ammunition to relieve Osman Pasha, had reached yesterday a village four hours from Plevna, after repulsing attack by Russians.

No. 285.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

Tiflis, September 22, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

SERIOUS insurrection in Daghestan. Grenadiers must have arrived at head-quarters; 36th not come. Mukhtar Pasha's camp will be attacked on Tuesday next.

No. 286.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 22, 1877.*

A REPORT received to-day from the Vice-Consul at Fiume states that the Southern Railway Company have been ordered by the Minister of War to lend within twenty days the sidings at stations of Fiume, St. Peter line, so that the longest military trains may cross each other.

No. 287.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 546.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 22, 1877.*

WITH reference to Mr. Eldridge's despatch to your Excellency No. 97 of the 4th instant, on the subject of 41 Bulgarians in prison at Acre, I have to instruct your Excellency to suggest to the Porte that if, notwithstanding the Sultan's amnesty, it is thought necessary to keep these men in prison until the end of the war, they might nevertheless be relieved of their chains, and otherwise treated as leniently as circumstances will allow.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 288.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 23.)

(Telegraphic) *Bucharest, September 23, 1877, 2·10 P.M.*

IT is believed that Mehemet Ali Pasha has withdrawn from the front of the position of the Czarevitch and will make an attack in the direction of Tirnova.

No. 289.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 141. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September 4, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Prince Tseretelew has been to Oujitza, where he is supposed to have had an interview either directly with some Bosnian leaders or with their delegates. From reliable information which has reached me, it appears that the Bosnian Christians are thoroughly sick of this long pending anarchy in their province, and as their hopes of foreign occupation and assistance have dwindled away, even the refugees who have found an asylum in Croatia and Dalmatia, and receive there a small pittance, are more and more disheartened, and are desirous to return to their former homes if they could only be assured of safety and proper assistance there. I am told that there appears a general disposition in many parts of Bosnia to give up the reliance hitherto placed in Russian support, and that if hopes were held out that a permanent settlement of the country could be brought about without awaiting the results of the present war, such a result would be welcome to the most of the Christian Rayahs of Bosnia.

If the Porte could be induced to take at once the initiative of some permanent settlement of Bosnia by taking the condition of the Rayahs in hand, such a work would have a chance of success if undertaken vigorously and with a full determination to employ without intermission proper means for its satisfactory accomplishment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 290.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 144. Political.) *Belgrade, September 8, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that during the last week there prevailed at Belgrade great uncertainty as to the immediate next step which Servia was about to take.

There is no doubt that the idea of renewing the war against Turkey is extremely unpopular in this Principality amongst all classes.

Russian agents are highly dissatisfied at the delay, and some of them pretend that the hesitation so unexpectedly manifested by the Servian Ministers is partly due to the representations made by me under instructions from Her Majesty's Government.

It appears, however, that these hesitations must have been overcome, as Prince Tseretelew has concluded his mission, and intends leaving to-night on his way back to the Russian head-quarters.

It is understood at Belgrade that after trying to conclude a Convention with Russia, and after having failed in this attempt, Servia has consented to become unconditionally the ally of Russia, but that she will require pecuniary subsidies.

It is expected that an order to mobilize the militia will be issued next week. But it must not be supposed that this will be by any means sufficient to complete Servia's fitness to commence war; the country is so far from being ready that this will be by no means the case, though Russian commands will have to be obeyed anyhow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 291.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 145. Political.) *Belgrade, September 8, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Count Toannini read to me yesterday a despatch of M. Melegari's, in which he was instructed by the Italian Government to state to M. Ristitch in the most friendly and amicable tone the recommendation not to commit Servia to a participation in the present war.

M. Melegari having been informed from Belgrade and from London of the nature of the instructions given me by your Lordship on this occasion, has thus been induced to speak here in the same sense through sympathy for Servia.

I am not aware of any other Government having adopted the same line at Belgrade, and the statements which have appeared in the public journals with reference to Germany have been contradicted since.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 292.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 147. Political.) *Belgrade, September 10, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to the Russian General Fadieieff, to whose refusal of services here I alluded in my despatch to your Lordship on the 22nd ultimo, has taken his departure since from Belgrade, having failed in his desire to receive a command in Servia, as the Russian Government has refused to support his application for active employment by Prince Milan.

In conversation with a leading statesman here the General expressed his astonishment at finding how unpopular the idea of a new war with Turkey had become at Belgrade.

To this the Servian gentleman replied, "You know, General, and the party to which you belong know, how the hope of reuniting Bosnia with Servia has been the aim of every

one of us for years; how can you wonder if we are lukewarm for a war, in which the first condition is that we must renounce all hope of Bosnia, as that province is to be dealt with by Austria as she may think proper?"

General Fadieieff answered, "Yes, that country you must not touch; 'elle vous est interdite' (it is forbidden ground to you)."

"But however can you conciliate such a policy," said the Servian, "with your well-known views respecting Austria and the future of South Slav countries?"

To this the General replied somewhat in the following sense:—

"The Russian Empire has quite enough to do at present with Turkey and her Slav Provinces; it requires for the accomplishment of its objects the good-will of the Austrian Empire; the question of the Hungarian Slavs will not be lost sight of, though it has to be postponed for a later and more favourable opportunity. One thing at a time."

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 293.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 148. Political. Confidential.) *Belgrade, September, 10, 1877.*

My Lord,

THE general discontent which, I believe, prevails at this moment in Servia has not as yet taken any prominent form, nor is it likely to do so for some time. The belief in the power of the great Czar, and in the success of the Russian arms, is so great that it is by itself sufficient to check, as long as it lasts, any existing disposition to resist the calamities which such a venture foreshadows.

The prevailing Russian influence is the result of long years of consistent diplomacy, of much labour and money spent by consecutive Agents, and is partly due to the political and religious creed of the country.

At one moment this Muscovite influence appeared shaken, owing to the conduct of the Russian volunteers in Servia, but it has revived since, owing to the present war and to the hopes which have been associated with its supposed objects.

It will, therefore, depend upon the results of this war whether Russian influence will diminish in consequence, and be replaced by that of Austria, or whether, on the contrary, it will be so consolidated as to turn Belgrade in the future into a centre of Slavonic agitation, to the detriment of Magyar dominion.

An attempt had been intended at Belgrade to organize an opposition to the projected war, but it failed owing to the unwillingness of some of the Chiefs of placing themselves in a position of contrariety to the Czar's express wishes.

Prince Milan, who up to August 1875, was certainly pro-Austrian, has of late identified himself completely with Russian policy and interest, and is so committed to this line that there is no hope of extricating him from this influence.

Should the war bring some of the calamities on the Servian peasants which it is supposed it may, it is not impossible that the discontent amongst the country folk may take a more dangerous and anti-dynastic form, and that the Prince may be held by his people responsible for their sufferings.

Some persons go so far as to suppose that the rival dynasty of Karageorge may have some chance; but I assured that the ranks of the former adherents of the Pretender of that name have been greatly thinned of late by death and otherwise.

The more one considers the present condition of Servia, the more one is inclined to the opinion that the question of its future administration is more an Austrian than a Turkish question; the greatest danger would accrue to the former Power if Russian influence were to be permanently consolidated at Belgrade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 294.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 150. Political.) *Belgrade, September 11, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to a telegram received by me to-day from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of the assurances to the Porte renewed on the 10th instant by M. Christitch on behalf of his Government, I reported to his Excellency as follows:—

The Servian Government require both funds and arms to enable them to prosecute their intended hostilities; they are trying to get ready, but it is impossible to say how soon they are disposed to commence their most uncalled-for and disloyal aggression.

Of this I have no doubt, that Prince Milan and his Government are fully committed to co-operate with Russia as soon as they feel able to do so, whatever assurances they think proper to make to the contrary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 295.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 151. Political.) *Belgrade, September 15, 1877.*

My Lord,

A RUSSIAN officer of the name of Colonel Bobrikoff has arrived on an official mission at Belgrade, after having been employed for a long time in Montenegro, and having previously travelled much in all parts of European Turkey. He is supposed to have the duties of Military Attaché with Prince Milan assigned to him.

The new Russian Representative, M. Persiani, is expected here shortly.

If I am correctly informed, Russia had no recognized Consul at Belgrade during the Crimean War, and has recalled her Diplomatic Agent from Egypt on account of that country being considered a portion of the Ottoman dominions in May last.

It appears to me that the arrival of M. Persiani as an accredited Representative of the Czar, when His Majesty is at war with the Sultan, is an act which places Prince Milan within the class of the open enemies of the latter Sovereign, and exactly in the same category as Prince Charles of Roumania when the latter signed a military Convention with Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 296.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 152. Political.) *Belgrade, September 15, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a further report on the Servian army, drawn up by Mr. Vice-Consul Marshall.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 296.

Report by Vice-Consul Marshall respecting Military Preparations in Servia.

MILITARY preparations here continue uninterruptedly. On the frontier districts of the Ibar, Losnitza, Alexinatz, and Negotin, the militia has been mobilized for the last month, and that of the remaining districts has received orders to hold itself in readiness.

Four battalions of regulars left Belgrade during the last week, viz.:—

13*th*.—1 battalion for Kroschevaz (viâ Semendria).

13*th*.—1 battalion for Kragujévaz.

14*th*.—2 battalions for Zaiczar.

in order to be amalgamated with the militia at those places in the proportion of 1 to 3, as detailed in my last report.

Seven rafts of pontoons from Shabatz passed the fortress and proceeded down the Danube on the morning of the 12th, their destination being, as far as I could discover, the Morava.

This is not improbable, as troops are being collected at Kruschevaz. The cavalry (one squadron) left Belgrade on the morning of the 13th.

The militia of the Belgrade district may be expected here daily, when they will be amalgamated with the one battalion of regulars remaining here.

The annual requisition on all tax-paying peasants for the subsistence of the militia during training is being levied as usual. It consists of—

	Okes.
Corn	6
Maize	6
Beans	3¼
Flour (corn)	4½
Ditto (Maize)	4½
Salt	¾
Straw	7
Hay	30½
Barley	17½
Meat	4
Total weight	83¾

The oke, equal 2 lbs. Austrian, the total value, equal to 1 ducat.

This requisition will be paid for in part by the Government, and is intended to subsist the troops already called out for twenty days.

Each district provides for its own battalions, and the peasants have to deliver their quota at the spot notified by the authorities (the Natchalniks). This is the only regular method of supply known. Standing magazines are totally unknown.

After this first supply is exhausted, the wealthier people will have to subscribe the remainder.

A thick veil is drawn round all military movements, incorrect information is published, and troops are marched and countermarched in all directions to deceive those who are interested in finding out what is really taking place.

Merchants from the interior are not permitted to visit Belgrade lest they should be absent when their corps are mobilised; and to prevent the strong desire for peace prevailing in the interior from extending to Belgrade, Turkish troops are already said to be in readiness at Bjelina to invade Sevia if Servian troops should attempt to cross the Turkish frontier. Bosnian Serbs are joining the Turkish standards for this purpose.

Belgrade, September 16, 1877.

No. 297.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 82. Political.) *Bosna-Serai, September 6, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 77, Political, of the 17th ultimo, stating that the state of siege had been proclaimed in certain sandjaks of this vilayet, I have now the honour to inform your Lordship that the remaining sandjaks, viz., Serajevo and Svornik, were also yesterday declared to be in a state of siege.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 298.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 83. Political.) *Bosna-Serai, September 6, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Governor-General of Bosnia has lately presented to the Austro-Hungarian Consul-General, M. Theodorovic, for transmittal to his Government, a claim against the late insurgent Chief Despotovic, amounting to about 13,000 ducats, for cattle carried off from Turkish subjects and damage done to Turkish property during the past twelvemonth.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 299.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 84. Political.) *Bosna-Serai, September 7, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received this week from Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper, regarding a late tour of inspection made by the Mutessarif of Banjaluka and the Liva Ali Pasha, commander of the troops in that district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 299.

Vice-Consul Cooper to Acting Consul Freeman.

Banjaluka, Bosnia, September 3, 1877.

Sir,

ON Sunday 26th August, the Mutessarif and Liva, accompanied by three companies infantry and a cavalry escort, started on a tour of inspection. Some 200 Bashi-Bazouks left the same day for Kozarac.

The Pashas slept at Klasnice, a village some nine miles from Banjaluka on Gradiska road; during the night some outlying cottages were burnt. This was supposed to be the work of insurgents, and five of the inhabitants were made prisoners and sent here for examination.

On Monday the Pashas reached Berbir (Turkish Gradiska); the town was in some excitement owing to the threats of a noted robber who had lately given out his intention of burning certain houses. The Mutessarif informs me that this man was caught and killed by his soldiers, and on the robber's head being shown to the inhabitants, many who had previously fled to the Austrian side of the Save returned.

From Berbir the Pashas marched through the woods to Kozarac and thence returned here on Saturday night (1st September). Though they did not come across any band of insurgents nor hear of any large gathering, yet the Mutessarif informs me that the country is in a very disturbed state, and that small bands of robbers or insurgents, as they are indifferently called, are to be met with throughout the district. These men take up arms wherever opportunity occurs of burning and robbing without opposition. The nature of the country is such that it is very difficult effectively to guard against these small bands, especially as during the day or on the approach of any armed force everybody seems to be quietly engaged in their ordinary occupations about the fields, and no trace of arms is to be found.

The Pashas have established military posts along the roads for protection of travellers.

As to the existence of these robber bands I can give no opinion, but the appearance of both country and people is such as to show a very disturbed state of things. On Tuesday I drove to Berbir (Turkish Gradiska), returning the following morning. The road from Klasnice passes through a desert. What might be one of the richest plains in the world is now utterly deserted except by the soldiers in the military posts guarding the

road. Even the brushwood has been cut and burnt in order not to leave any cover for robbers. I passed the afternoon with the Austrian Commandant of Gradiska, and in the evening, at the inn, joined in general conversation, but on neither occasion did I learn anything as to insurrectionary movements in Bosnia, and no one even mentioned the robber's threat of burning the opposite town of Berbir.

The Bashi-Bazourks who accompanied the Pashas are now returning by twos and threes. It is to be hoped that they may not again be employed. Even supposing that they do not stir up ill-feeling nor cause any damage at the places where they halt, the withdrawal of a certain class of the population from their usual avocation has a very disturbing influence on those remaining behind, and tends very much to keep up the feeling of insecurity which for the last two years has paralyzed all trade in this town.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

No. 300.

Mr. Scott to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 57. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Carlsruhe, September 19, 1877.*

M. KOLOEZYN, the Russian Minister at this Court, to whom I had observed the Emperor twice addressed himself last night, informed me that His Imperial Majesty had said to him, in a tone marked with extreme earnestness, in allusion to the recent news from the seat of war, "I feel it all as deeply as if it concerned myself; your Emperor is now never one moment from my thoughts." M. Koloczyn telegraphed the latter part of this speech to the Emperor of Russia's head-quarters.

M. Koloczyn, who had evidently been very uneasy at the absence of any official news from the Russian head-quarters, coupled with the rumours in yesterday's morning telegrams from Pera of fresh and simultaneous Russian reverses before Plevna, on the line facing the Lom, and in the Shipka Pass, was much relieved by his conversations with the Emperor and Count Moltke, neither of whom attached any faith to these rumours.

I venture to add that the Crown Prince of Germany, who did me the honour of conversing with me, expressed to me his personal opinion that unfavourable as the late engagements had been to the Russian arms, their position was by no means so bad a one as it was generally supposed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT.

No. 301.

Consul St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 10. Political.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, September 14, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 7 of the 27th ultimo, in which I reported to your Lordship that sixteen cannons and 2,000 cases containing munitions of war had been landed on the Dalmatian coast, for transmission to Montenegro, I have now ascertained that the materials in question came from Italy in a vessel flying Greek colours.

My Turkish colleague, Daniah Effendi, ascribes the recent fall of Nichsich to the breach of neutrality committed by the Dalmatian authorities in allowing these arms to cross Austrian territory.

have, &c.

(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 302.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, September* 24.)

(No. 98.) *Buda-Pest, September* 16, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 13 of the 14th April last, I am now able to confirm by personal inquiries at Agram the account of the idleness and ignorance of the Bosnian refugees.

It seems that they do not know how to use the commonest agricultural implements; that, when all the generations of a family club together, they can just manage to live on the daily pittance they receive; that they will not work, and only care to live from hand to mouth; and that there are Greek priests among them who cannot say the Pater Noster. I heard, moreover, that a Croat, who had been amongst them, avers that they are so little civilized that he would rather walk in a red coat through a herd of buffaloes than live in their midst.

The daily pittance of ten kreuzers to these unfortunate Bosnians becomes, however, for so many thousand, and for so long a time, a serious charge upon the charity of the dual Governments; but it may also be politically a not inexpedient outlay upon the Greek fellow subjects of the Bosnian Catholics.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 303.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, September* 24.)

(No. 99.) *Buda-Pest, September* 16, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 86 of the 18th ultimo, I find, after conversing with several intelligent Croats, who are, more or less, perfectly acquainted with the state of affairs in Bosnia, that I must correct my likening of the position of the Rayah to that of the peasant before the Abolarium of Maria Theresa, by adding the fact, to the disadvantage of the Rayah, that he is not *glebæ adscriptus*. Hence he has become nomadic, in addition to having his little earnings at the mercy of his lord the Bey.

It might be said that the Rayah inherits no right to land, but only the right of contracting to hold land from the lord upon paying in labour and kind; but the lord is judge, and no Court can enforce the terms of the contract. The Rayah has no inducement to cultivate more than is necessary for bare subsistence, and whenever he is dissatisfied he shifts to another part of the country, and hence lives in the merest hovels and holes. It is not surprising that the refugees are idle and ignorant.

The impression made upon me is that the questions of religion and imperial taxation are of minor importance by side of the question of regulating the relations between landowner and peasant; and, as one of the best informed Croats said to me, "Whoever will do that will be the saviour and regenerator of Bosnia."

As the Bey is clearly a great loser by the shifting labour and shiftless life of the Rayah, why could not the Porte, without neglecting the other questions of religious tolerance, judicial equality, and fiscal equity, become thus the saviour of Bosnia and the Herzegovina?

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 304.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, September* 24.)

(No. 102. Confidential.) *Buda-Pest, September* 17, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that yesterday, on his passage through, Count Andrassy assured M. Tisza that he would not allow any Russian troops to pass through Servia, or any Servian troops to enter Bosnia.

The victory of the Turks, and the reflection that in no case can the Servians be

dangerous to the Turks, are together reconciling the Hungarians to the freedom of action otherwise accorded to Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 305.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 24.)

(No. 746.)

My Lord, *Vienna, September* 20, 1877.

WITH reference to Mr. Consul Freeman's despatch No. 83 of the 7th instant, I have asked Baron Orczy whether any steps had been taken by the Austro-Hungarian Government respecting a claim said to have been presented to them by the Governor of Bosnia for 13,000 florins, the value of cattle belonging to Turkish subjects, which had been taken across the frontier by Despotovics.

He answered that, when a band of insurgents under that leader crossed into Austrian territory a part of the cattle which they brought with them had been sold, and a part restored to the Turkish subjects to whom it belonged, and it had been intended to pay the proceeds of the sale to the owners of the cattle, on their identity being satisfactorily ascertained.

Unfortunately, however, a Turkish force having in the meanwhile made a raid into Dalmatia, and carried off a quantity of cattle, a question has arisen between the Bosnian and Dalmatian authorities, which may lead to the claims of one being set off against those of the other.

His Excellency said that such incidents are of frequent occurrence, and that only a few days ago a numerous herd of cattle had been carried off from Austrian territory by Turkish troops, but they had been immediately afterwards sent back by the local authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 306.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 24.)

(No. 750. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, September* 20, 1877.

HAVING learnt yesterday from Baron Orczy that a Montenegrin force, which has taken several fortified posts in the Duga Pass, was about to march on Gacko, I inquired whether the Government of Austria-Hungary is indifferent to a Montenegrin invasion of the Herzegovina; and on his answering that the interests of Austria would not be affected by it, I asked why, while an invasion of Bosnia by Servia is declared to be inadmissible, no objection will be made to an invasion of the Herzegovina by Montenegro?

His Excellency said, in reply, that the cases were entirely different, as an occupation of the upper districts of the Herzegovina by Montenegrin troops could cause no inconvenience or political excitement in Dalmatia, whereas hostilities between Servia and Turkish troops in Bosnia could not take place without creating disturbances among the Slav populations on the frontiers of Austria-Hungary.

This statement of the case is probably correct; but may it not also be inferred from it that Count Andrassy's previous assent had been secured to that part of the Russian programme of the conditions, on which peace with Turkey might be eventually made, from which it appears to have been contemplated that Montenegro should obtain an increase of territory in the Herzegovina?

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 307.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 24.)

(No. 357. Confidential.)
Berlin, September 22, 1877.

My Lord,

I RECEIVED last night the following cyphered telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Königsberg:—

"At 3 at night, on the 15th September, twenty-four railway-waggons, guns, powder, from Rhine, have passed here to Russia, under German officer commanding Army Service Corps and Artillerymen."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

P.S.—The "Kreuz Zeitung" of this morning confirms the above report, and adds that twelve German military surgeons have been ordered to proceed to the Russian head-quarters.

H. G. M.

No. 308.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 24.)

(No. 408.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, September 23, 1877, 10·30 A.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of 21st, Geshoff is still at Philippopolis. I am doing the best I can for him, but the case is a serious one. I have written fully on the subject.

No. 309.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 24.)

(No. 409.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, September 23, 1877, 1 P.M.

IF nothing occurs to keep me here, and you do not object, I intend to go to Besika for two days on Wednesday, after the departure of the messenger.

No. 310.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 24.)

St. Petersburgh, September 23, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

GRAND DUKE telegraphs, dated Gorni Studen, September 22:—

"Turks renewed yesterday bombardment of St. Nicholas with fourteen mortars. They also attacked corps of General Tatischew; repulsed on right, they attacked left and centre, but were repulsed. Tatischew maintained his positions. Renewal of attack expected to-day."

No. 311.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 24.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)
Vienna, September 23, 1877.

MY report of the 21st instant of Count Andrassy's interview with Prince Bismarck has been confirmed to me to-day by his Excellency. He is convinced that his Highness

has no hostile views with respect to France, and that he earnestly desires the termination of the war in Turkey and the preservation of peace in Europe; but they are of opinion, as neither belligerent has asked for mediation, that it is impossible at present to find a stand-point from which their respective pretensions could be reconciled. He said that Prince Bismarck expressed most friendly feelings towards England, and considered Her Majesty's Government entirely justified in seeking guarantees that English interests should not be impaired by war. As to issue of campaign, Count Andrassy thinks that if the Turkish Commanders use their opportunities wisely, the Russians cannot recover this year the ground they have lost, and apparently doubts their being able to remain in Bulgaria.

In answer to my inquiry respecting the expected conclave, he said that as the Pope's health is good, he hoped Europe will be spared any trouble on that subject for the present.

No. 312.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 24.)

(No. 410.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, September 24, 1877, 8·40 A.M.

LENNOX telegraphs that in affair on Friday nine battalions of Turkish troops attacked with greatest gallantry Russian positions at Bein Verboka and Cerkessa, and occupied for a time former place, but were compelled by superior numbers to fall back upon their previous positions, the left, however, being more advanced. The Russians, according to statement of prisoners, had twenty battalions.

No. 313.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Carruthers.

(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, September 24, 1877, 3·15 P.M.

I INSTRUCTED Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to inquire respecting Greek vessel reported in your despatch of 20th August to have entered Taganrog with a safe-conduct from Turkish Government. Mr. Layard reports that he has received the most explicit assurances that no such pass had been given to any Greek vessel, and that the strongest instructions had been sent to the military and naval authorities not to grant such passes under any circumstances whatever.

No. 314.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 549.)
Foreign Office, September 24, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1064 of the 11th instant, stating that Consul Blunt reports that Ahmed Vefyk Pasha is giving general satisfaction by his fair and impartial conduct in dealing with Bulgarian rebels; and I am to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve your neglecting no opportunity of impressing upon the Turkish Ministers privately the importance of avoiding unnecessary severity in dealing with the unfortunate men who have been induced to take part in the insurrection.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 315.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 551.) *Foreign Office, September* 24, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to call the attention of the Porte to the conduct of the Governor of Trebizond with regard to the repatriation of the Mingrelians, as reported in Mr. Vice-Consul Biliotti's despatch to your Excellency No. 73 of the 4th instant.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 316.

Consul Carruthers to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 40.) *Taganrog, September* 17, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Greek vessel called "Panaji Malteza," Demetrius Moschakis master, reported in my despatch of the 29th ultimo, No. 39, to have entered the Azoff from the Black Sea, and appeared off this place, has since then been loaded in the roadstead of Taganrog with a cargo consisting of 2,270 chetwerts of wheat, and taken out her clearances.

The said shipmaster stated at the Greek Consulate, that he purposed proceeding hence to Kertch and await orders there before proceeding into the Black Sea; but it is generally understood that the ship's destination is a foreign port.

It is stated that two other vessels which have taken the Greek flag are about to load cargoes here for abroad; but I can obtain no reliable information relative thereto, the matter being so arranged as to avoid observation.

British merchants and shipping agents established here consider the inefficiency of the blockade a serious grievance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. CARRUTHERS.

No. 317.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 758. Confidential.) *Vienna, September* 22, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE had again some conversation with Baron Orczy respecting the alleged landing in Dalmatia of guns and munitions of war for Montenegro from an Italian vessel, reported by Mr. Consul St. John in his despatches Nos. 7 and 10 of the 3rd and 14th instant respectively.

His Excellency says that it has now been ascertained that an Italian vessel did land guns and ammunition for Montenegro but on Albanian and not on Dalmatian territory; and that the operation was effected very cleverly by the vessel attracting the attention of the Coast Guard to one place, while the contraband of war was landed at another.

Baron Orczy said that the guns, of which there were certainly not sixteen, and which some reports state to have been only two, were conveyed in boats across the Lake Scutari, which passed without being observed an island in the Lake recently fortified by the Turks.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 318.

M. Tricoupi to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, September 25.)

Monsieur, *Athènes, le* 27 Août / 8 Septembre, 1877.

AYANT lu dans les télégrammes des agences de publicité que la démarche du Gouvernement Britannique relative à l'attitude de la Grèce envers la Turquie, et dont il est rendu compte dans ma dépêche du 23 Août / 4 Septembre, avait été provoquée par la Porte, j'ai prié Mr. Wyndham de vouloir bien me dire ce qu'il en savait. M. le Chargé d'Affaires Britannique me répondit qu'il n'avait reçu de son Gouvernement, au sujet de cette démarche, aucune autre instruction que le télégramme dont il m'avait fait connaître le contenu dans son entrevue du 23 Août / 4 Septembre. Ce télégramme étant chiffré, Mr. Wyndham avait cru ne pas devoir en livrer le texte. Toutefois, sur l'expression de mon désir d'être édifié sur le point susénoncé, il me promit de relire le télégramme pour en vérifier le sens et me donner le renseignement demandé. En exécution de cette promesse, Mr. Wyndham vient de m'adresser la lettre particulière, dont je vous transmets ci-joint une copie. Vous y relèverez que c'était sur le désir exprimé par la Porte à Mr. Layard que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique avait cru devoir procéder à sa démarche auprès de nous.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) CH. TRICOUPI.

Inclosure in No. 318.

Mr. Wyndham to M. Tricoupi.

Dear M. Tricoupi, *Athens, September* 8, 1877.

WITH reference to our conversation of yesterday, I have referred to Lord Derby's telegram, and I find that the Porte asked Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople whether the Hellenic Government had given the English Government any distinct assurances that Greece will not attack Turkey or try to create insurrection, and that, if such was the case, whether Her Majesty's Government would allow Mr. Layard to make a declaration in that sense to the Turkish Government. Lord Derby, referring to Mr. Stuart's despatches, which I had the pleasure of reading to you on the 4th instant, desired me to ask if your Government would authorize the English Government to make such a declaration in their name to Turkey.

Trusting that this explanation will be found clear and satisfactory, I remain, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 318A.

M. Tricoupi to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, September 25.)

Monsieur, *Athènes, le* 30 Août / 11 Septembre 1877.

AINSI que je vous l'annonçai par ma dépêche du 23 Août / 4 Septembre, Mr. Wyndham avait transmis à Lord Derby par le télégraphe, un sommaire des réponses que j'avais cru devoir donner aux demandes que la Porte nous adressa par le canal du Cabinet Britannique, au sujet de notre attitude à son égard. Mr. Wyndham avait fait connaître ces mêmes réponses à Mr. Layard, et il vient de m'informer que c'est à la suite d'une correspondance télégraphique entre Lord Derby et Mr. Layard que le Principal Secrétaire d'État de Sa Majesté Britannique l'a chargé d'une nouvelle communication pour moi. D'après le télégramme que Mr. Wyndham a reçu aujourd'hui, mais dont il ne m'a donné que le sens, Lord Derby ne jugeait pas opportune la communication de mes réponses à la Porte, avant qu'elles seraient considérées par elle comme insuffisantes, il s'abstiendrait donc de les porter à sa connaissance et il invitait Mr. Wyndham à demander que je supprimasse les réserves que j'avais attachées aux assurances des intentions pacifiques du Gouvernement Hellénique.

Je priai Mr. Wyndham de vouloir bien préciser le sens de la recommandation dont il était chargé pour moi en relevant les points qui, dans mes réponses, étaient considérés par le Gouvernement Anglais comme susceptibles de modification.

Tant en ce qui concernait le libre arbitre de la Grèce dans la question de paix ou de guerre, qu'en ce qui concernait ses forces militaires, je demandai à M. le Chargé d'Affaires

Britannique de m'indiquer en quoi ma déclaration ne cadrait pas avec celle de la Conférence de Londres et quelle modification pouvait y être apportée qui ne constituat pas une diminution d'état de la Grèce comme Puissance indépendante. Mr. Wyndham n'ayant rien formulé à cet égard, je lui fis observer que c'étaient là les seuls points sur lesquels nous avions fait des réserves, puisque, quant à l'engagement de ne pas susciter des troubles dans les Provinces Grecques de la Turquie, je m'étais empressé de prendre les devants sur la recommandation de Lord Derby, en déclarant que nous y étions astreints, indépendamment de tout engagement spécial, par cela même que nous entretenions avec l'Empire Ottoman des relations de paix. Demander davantage, ce serait prétendre que la Grèce fit, auprès des populations Helléniques de la Turquie, office de gendarme du Gouvernement Ottoman, c'est assez dire que ce n'est pas sur ce point que la Porte pourrait espérer que l'Angleterre trouverait notre réponse insuffisante.

C'est dans sa propre action et non dans celle de la Grèce que la Porte doit chercher les moyens de parer aux dangers que lui crée sa position vis-à-vis de l'Hellénisme en Turquie. Une étude consciencieuse des causes de la situation actuelle lui ferait reconnaître qu'il ne dépend que d'elle de porter des remèdes efficaces au mal, dont on cherche, bien à tort, à rejeter ailleurs la responsabilité.

Quant à la Grèce, dans ses rapports avec ses frères de race en Turquie, elle a bien soin de respecter ses obligations internationales envers la Porte; mais, pour le reste, elle n'a en vue que les intérêts de l'Hellénisme. C'est en vue de ces intérêts qu'elle fut érigée en Etat indépendant, et elle a trop la conscience du rôle qui lui a été réservé en Orient par les Grandes Puissances de l'Europe pour renoncer à l'exercice des droits et à l'accomplissement des devoirs que ce rôle lui impose. L'éventualité de crises de la nature de celle que l'Orient traverse en ce moment n'avait pas échappé aux prévisions des hommes d'Etat et des Diplomates qui en 1832 furent appelés à répondre en conférence aux demandes, par lesquelles la Porte cherchait, dès lors, à bâillonner la Grèce, et ce n'est pas au moment où ces prévisions se réalisent que la Grèce s'écartera de la voie de ses devoirs, telle qu'elle lui fut tracée par la Conférence de Londres.

Mr. Wyndham, m'ayant demandé si notre Ministre à Constantinople n'avait donné des indications sur les dessins de la Porte, je lui dis que le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Turquie adressait parfois des questions à M. Comduriotis au sujet du but de nos armements, mais qu'il avait toujours paru se contenter des explications qui lui étaient données avec une parfaite loyauté par notre Représentant. C'est même dans les forces militaires dont dispose aujourd'hui le Gouvernement Hellénique que le Ministre de Turquie à Athènes a déclaré, avec raison, dans une note récente, chercher des garanties contre la formation de bandes en Grèce et leur irruption en Turquie. Nous n'avons donc aucune indication directe et officielle que la Porte nourrisse contre nous de projets hostiles; il est, cependant, vrai que Mr. Layard a déclaré à M. Comduriotis qu'il avait des raisons pour croire que nos rapports avec la Porte subiraient une altération.

Mr. Wyndham m'ayant aussi demandé à quoi je croyais devoir attribuer les dispositions que la Porte venait de manifester par sa démarche auprès du Gouvernement Anglais, je ne fis pas difficulté de lui dire que notre attitude n'y pouvant fournir aucune explication, il était à supposer qu'il nous paru à Constantinople d'une politique habile de profiter du moment où les armes Turques avait remporté des avantages pour écarter la Grèce de la scène comme Etat indépendant et ayant un rôle actif à y remplir. On aura pensé que l'on y parviendrait par l'intimidation ou même en lui portant un coup. S'il en était ainsi, les événements ne tarderont pas à prouver, j'en ai la conviction, que la Porte, en suivant de tels conseils, courrait au devant de dangers, bien autrement graves que ceux contre lesquels elle chercherait à se garantir. Ce n'est ni l'intimidation, ni un coup de main qui peut supprimer l'action de l'Hellénisme en Orient. Une injuste agression contre la Grèce soulèverait infailliblement tout le peuple Hellénique, et l'issue de la guerre de nationalité, qui s'ensuivrait, ne dépendrait pas du sort des armes dans les batailles rangées. Mais, s'il est difficile de déterminer d'avance la durée et la limite des calamités d'une pareille guerre, il n'en est pas de même de la grave responsabilité que pèserait sur l'agresseur et sur ceux qu'il encouragerait à s'engager dans une voie dont le Gouvernement Anglais ne pourra manquer de lui signaler les périls et l'iniquité.

Vous êtes autorisé à lire la présente dépêche à M. le Principal Secrétaire d'Etat et à lui en remettre une copie, s'il vous la demande.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) CH. TRICOUPI.

No. 319.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 411.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, September 24, 1877, 9 P.M.

I AM informed that the reinforcements and supplies sent from Orkanie to Osman Pasha have reached Plevna.

No. 320.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 412.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, September 24, 1877, 9·15 P.M.

PORTE has received information which leads it to believe that a band of 30 men, headed by a certain Dimitrion, has, with the connivance of the Greek Government, entered, or is about to enter, Turkish territory. Foreign Minister informs me that ship of war has been sent to Volo, and if it should appear that the band in question is really acting with the knowledge of the Greek Government, ships of war would be sent into Greek waters. I urged Server Pasha not to take any action without fullest proof of complicity of the Greek Government in the expedition in question, and not to give Greece cause for accusing Turkey of commencing hostile measures against her.

No. 321.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, September 25, 1877.

LET the Porte know that the case of the two Geshoffs is exciting great interest in England. They are well known in Manchester, and I have received a petition from thence very numerously and influentially signed in their behalf. Similar applications have been received from Leeds and other places in the north. If their sentence should be carried out it will create a most unfavourable feeling against Turkey, and will go far to produce a second agitation similar to that of last year. It is desirable that the Turkish Government should fully understand the probable consequences of such a step; they may be very serious.

No. 322.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

September 25, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

HER Majesty's Commissioner on Danube to Lord Derby:—

"Our Inspector-General of Navigation has been embarked at Toultcha by the Russian authorities under escort, to be conveyed viâ Kilia to the Turkish outposts at Sulina.

"I will report by letter."

No. 323.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 78. Political.)

Aleih, September 11, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 74 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch and its inclosure, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting on the progress of events in the Ansairyeh Mountains in the district of Latakia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 323.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Layard.

Aleik, September 11, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 1st instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I brought the circumstance of the Christian inhabitants of some of the Ansairyeh villages having been molested by the Ansairyeh allies of the Moslems officiously to the notice of the authorities, who have assured me that the reports which reached me were greatly exaggerated, though I have no doubt that my having taken up the matter will cause the Chiefs of the expedition to do their best to restrain their half barbarous allies.

I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your further information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Vitalé reporting on the progress of events in the district of Lattakia.

Her Majesty's ship "Bittern," which arrived at Beyrout on the 4th instant to relieve Her Majesty's ship "Coquette," left this morning for Lattakia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 323.

Vice-Consul Vitalé to Consul-General Eldridge.

M. le Consul-Général, *Lattaquié, le 3 Septembre*, 1877.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que le 28 du mois dernier, les troupes commandées par Akif Pacha ont attaqué "Débache" et "Elmezéràa," deux villages dans le Canton "Bet-el-Chelf," du Caïmacamlik de Lattaquié, dont les habitants Ansairyéhs, à l'apparition des troupes, ont pris la fuite, et par conséquent ces derniers en ont saccagé et incendié les maisons et pris quelques prisonniers.

Dans ces mêmes villages il y a environ soixante familles Chrétiennes qui, redoutant cette attaque, avaient envoyé une députation à Akif Pacha pour lui exprimer leur soumission et leur dévouement au Gouvernement. Akif Pacha, qui avait en même temps reçu communication d'une lettre que l'Evêque Orthodoxe de cette ville avait adressé au Caïmacam de Lattaquié à cet egard, a donné ordre aux Chrétiens de ne pas quitter leurs villages; le cas échéant, avait-il ajouté, et si les troupes venaient à y attaquer les Ansairyéhs, les Chrétiens auraient à se rassembler dans leurs quartiers et y hisser une espèce de drapeau blanc pour se distinguer et que par ce moyen ils seraient épargnés.

Or, le 28 écoulé, quand à l'aube du jour les troupes ont commencé l'attaque, les Chrétiens n'ont pas manqué d'exécuter les instructions d'Akif Pacha et par ce moyen ceux de "Débache" ont été sauvés à l'exception d'un seul qui a été blessé et d'un autre qui a été dépouillé par les soldats.

Malheureusement il n'a pas été ainsi au village "Elmezéràa," où à l'apparition des soldats, les Ansairyéhs "d'Omamra" sont arrivés sous prétexte d'y aider ces derniers qui n'étaient pas plus d'une centaine commandés par un Major, et qui avaient commencé l'attaque par "Biout-Giabro," un endroit habité par Cheik Brahim Saïd, un des principaux Chefs spirituels des Ansairyéhs de la Montagne. Ces Ansairyéhs "d'Omamra," les alliés des Musulmans de "Salioun," ont fait main basse sur les Chrétiens du dit village et malgré le drapeau blanc, hissé selon l'ordre d'Akif Pacha, ils en ont saccagé les maisons et tué l'un des Chrétiens.

Ils en ont même saccagé l'église et dépouillé le prêtre.

C'est à un certain Mohamad Ali Khalil d'Omamra et son allié Hassan Nasser de "Méhalbé" que ces Chrétiens de "Elmezéràa" doivent la misère où ils sont plongés maintenant et qu'ils devront la famine qu'ils auraient à endurer si le Gouvernement ne s'empresse pas de leur faire restituer ce que ces deux chefs Ansairyéhs leur ont fait enlever, ce qui n'est point difficile, car je crois savoir que tout reste encore intact.

Convaincu de cela je me suis permis d'écrire d'une manière particulière au Caïmacam de Lattaquié dans ce sens. Même j'ai conseillé d'accorder promptement quelque chose aux dits Chrétiens pour qu'ils puissent vivre en attendant. Aussi, ayant eu l'occasion de voir Akif Pacha hier en ville j'en ai fait mention en le priant de faire rendre justice à ces malheureux le plus tôt possible; c'est ce que je souhaite dans l'intérêt de ces pauvres créatures, qui sont maintenant dans une misère absolue, comme dans celui des autres Chrétiens habitants de la campagne, car par ce moyen on parviendrait à les faire respecter

et à les placer à l'abri de toute attaque de ce genre; ce qui me semble être également dans l'intérêt du Gouvernement même.

Je souhaite aussi que Mohamad Ali Khalil et Hassan Nasser soient punis pour avoir mal agi ainsi.

Quant aux prisoniers que les soldats ont fait des Ansairyehs, j'ai appris, M. le Consul-Général, que ce sont sept individus de la famille et des parents de Cheik Brahim Saïd et qu'ils ont été exécutés à peine arrivés au camp d'Akif Pacha.

Cinq cent bœufs et moutons du bétail que les soldats ont pris des deux villages en question sont envoyés ici à la vente au profit du Trésor.

Je dois vous informer en même temps, M. le Consul-Général, qu'avant hier soir le bataillon composé des Rédifs du 3me Ban et des Mustaphiz, de Lattaquié et de Géhelé, a quitté le camp et descendu en ville pour y être prêt au départ pour le théâtre de la guerre. Malgré cette importante diminution du nombre des soldats d'Akif Pacha et l'absence de ce dernier en cette ville, je viens d'apprendre que les troupes restées au camp ont attaqué hier les Ansairyehs de la Montagne dans le village Zama, et qu'elles en ont tué bon nombre; ceci prouve que la force restée au camp d'Akif Pacha est suffisante pour battre les montagnards et leur imposer la volonté du Gouvernement.

Au dire des autorités cette force est composée de 400 cavaliers, une centaine de dragons, et 8 compagnies du 4me bataillon Chasseurs, et des 2 petits canons. D'ailleurs ce qui fait la force de ces troupes ce sont leurs fusils Martini-Henry, qui leur permettent de disperser les montagnards à la première rencontre, les fusils de ces derniers étant du très ancien système de fusils à pierre.

Tout me porte à croire donc qu'Akif Pacha ne tardera pas à soumettre complètement ces Montagnards; mais j'espère qu'il fera aussi ce qui est indispensable pour faire sentir aux Musulmans de Sahioun la nécessité de rester tranquilles afin que le Gouvernement puisse réellement établir l'ordre dans ce pays.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) N. VITALÉ.

No. 324.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 26.)

(No. 86. Political.)

Bosna Serai, September 13, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that on Saturday, the 8th instant, the town and fortress of Nichsich capitulated to the Montenegrins. Colonel Skender Bey, a Hungarian by birth, who was in command of the garrison, consisting, I believe, of only one battalion, reports that having withstood a siege of forty-five days against twenty-five battalions of Montenegrins, having expended their last cartridge, and suffering from want of water, both the garrison and townspeople were of accord to surrender the town and obtain the best conditions they could for themselves. The troops were allowed to retain their arms, and those of the inhabitants who wished to quit were permitted to carry off their goods and chattels as far as they were able.

They marched out on Sunday, the 9th, under escort of a battalion of Montenegrins, and hoped to reach Gacko the following day. No mention is made by Skender Bey of the artillery, but I presume that the Montenegrins did not allow it to be removed; indeed the Turks would hardly have had the means of doing so.

The surrender of Nichsich brings the most remarkable phase of the Turco-Montenegrin war to a close. It is not that the fortress was of any great strength, and strategically the position was of no value; but the town, which numbered about 2,000 inhabitants, was almost exclusively Mussulman, and situated in one of the most fertile plains in the Herzegovina, and its retention seems to have been made a point of honour by the Turks. The difficulty of relieving it consisted in the fact that it could only be reached through the Duga Pass, and the whole struggle in the Herzegovina for the past two years, before as well as since the declaration of war by Montenegro, has been little else than a series of expeditions to force this pass and carry succour to the garrison and people of Nichsich. The blood and treasure thus expended has been enormous, and, especially, the last expedition under Suleiman Pasha seems to have been a most needless sacrifice of life, at a moment when every available man was required to defend another part of the Empire against a more redoubtable foe.

The Turks would now do well to immediately evacuate the forts of Presjeka, Nozdren, and Zlostup, in the Duga Pass, which have no longer any value, and which will undoubtedly,

one after another, be forced to surrender to the Montenegrins, and to fall back on the Krstac as their line of defence.

From a material point of view, this long-coveted acquisition of the plain of Nichsich will be of great advantage to the Montenegrins. It has a superficies of probably about twenty square miles, and it is hardly an exaggeration to say that its yield is equal to the whole of that of Montenegro.

Hafiz Pasha, commander of the troops in the district of Novi-Bazar, who was supposed to be attempting a diversion in favour of Nichsich, reports that he has reached the mountain Dormitor without succeeding in bringing the enemy to an engagement, and that his artillery has ignited and burnt four large and prosperous villages. He will probably now retire his forces from that neighbourhood, as he cannot expect to succeed in any independent attack.

I am informed that it is now the intention of the Turkish Government to concentrate a force in the vicinity of Svornik, for an invasion of Servia, and, I believe, that the Governor-General, Mahzar Pasha, will shortly proceed there in person to further the necessary arrangements. Twenty battalions of Redif and Mustahfiz, and about 10,000 irregulars, with a contingent of artillery, is mentioned as the strength likely to be attained by this force. There is certainly, however, at the present moment, no general in this province capable of successfully conducting such an expedition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 325.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 103. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, September* 13, 1877.

THE news of the fall of Nichsichs on the 8th instant was received by the authorities here unexpectedly on the following day, for they had lately been receiving reassuring reports from the besieged town, and I was not permitted to telegraph to your Lordship nor to Mr. Layard on the subject.

Ali Saib Pasha on the very day of its fall informed me that he had ordered a demonstration to be made from Podgoritza against Kokoti, as he had ascertained such movements on this side slackened the Montenegrin siege operations.

Immediately upon the receipt of the unfavourable news, the Commander-in-chief and the whole of his staff returned from this to the front, it being fully believed that Spuz, Podgoritza, or Jubiak will be the next point of Montenegrin attack.

M. Duby, Prince Nicholas' Secretary, writes to me from Cettigné that the fall of Nichsichs may be attributed to the bombardment by the guns recently received in Montenegro, and that these, coupled with the several very fine batteries of artillery found in Nichsichs, may turn out very efficacious against the Turkish frontier towns and forts, whose walls have hitherto withstood the fire of small mountain pieces.

I am told that the Nichsichsian families that have already arrived at Spuz and Podgoritza on their way to Scutari are loud in their praises of the treatment accorded them by Prince Nicholas, but the authorities endeavour to suppress these and all other rumours concerning Nichsichs, and, until the refugees reach this, nothing positive can be ascertained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 326.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 104. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, September* 16, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Governor-General, Mustafa Pasha, recently addressed a letter to Prenk Bib Doda and the other Mirdite chiefs who had not yet made their submission, calling upon them to return to their allegiance, and offering them an amnesty for their past insubordination.

Prenk Bib Doda has replied that he and Capitan Gion (a more influential Chief than

the one of the same name in prison at Constantinople) gratefully avail themselves of the Imperial mercy, and will submit to the orders of the Governor-General, but that Capitan Kola and his followers persist in proclaiming the Prince of Montenegro as their supreme authority.

Capitan Kola's eldest son, Capitan Prenk, is one of Prince Nicholas' aides-de-camp, and the late rising in Mirdicia was effected principally through him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 327.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 105. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, September* 16, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report that the possession by the Montenegrins of powerful artillery has wrought a considerable change in the military position here.

The four guns recently obtained from Russia are, I believe, 6-inch bronze breech-loaders, and I am assured that eighteen very valuable guns, four of which are 9-inch Krupps, have been found in Nichsich.

The Turkish authorities are very doubtful whether they could now successfully hold Spuz against such artillery, and are of opinion that they would have to retire to the more commanding positions on the Veli and Malo B'rdos. Podgoritza also has been brought within easy range of the Kukaritza hill and from the height of Rogami, whence it has already been occasionally bombarded with the Armstrong cannons taken with Medun.

During the past week the Montenegrins have advanced from the Koutchi Drekalovitch district into that of Gruda, and so have occupied mountains that work round on to the line of communication between Podgoritza and the lake.

Considerable activity has also been lately shown by Montenegrin emissaries and partisans among the Albanian Roman Catholic mountain tribes, and those of Scialla and Sosci, as well as some others in the vicinity of Prisrend, are undoubtedly pledged to join a Montenegrin force of 2,000 men, which it has been promised shall be sent to assist a rising having as scope the annexation to Montenegro of the mountains sloping down as far as Prisrend.

The Turks are further anxious about their free communications on the lake. They believe that the Montenegrins may endanger the passage of the steamers from Scutari to Helm by placing heavy cannons on the cliffs at Sistani, on the western shore, and they are, therefore, strengthening considerably the forces at Muric by withdrawing some of the troops at Podgoritza.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 328.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 85. Political.)
My Lord, *Galatz, September* 20, 1877.

MR. BROWN having reported to me that the Consular Corps at Ibraila were invited by the Russian Vice-Consul at that place to examine a woman stated to have been barbarously treated by the Turks, with a view to a collective report being made, I have the honour to inclose his despatch on the subject. The collective report has, I understand, been abandoned.

The only points in the evidence of the woman that appear worthy of comment are that, judging from the state of the crop in Roumania, the maize would not be ready for picking, while, had a small escort accompanied these peasants, a part of whose object at any rate was to procure forage for the Russian troops, in all probability they would not have been attacked.

It is impossible to tell how far the woman was hidden when fired at; in a maize field it might perfectly happen that, at ten or fifteen yards' distance, her sex might not be distinguishable, and the after-action of the man who fired in calling off his comrade leads to the inference that she was fired at in error.

The case, though much to be regretted, is one for which one must be prepared in any country in time of war, and I should not have troubled your Lordship in the matter were it not for the proportions it may assume in unscrupulous hands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

Inclosure in No. 328.

Vice-Consul Brown to Consul Sanderson.

Sir, *Ibraïla, September 7th*, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report to you that I, with my colleagues, were yesterday invited by the Russian Vice-Consul to see an unfortunate Roumanian woman that was stated to have been seriously ill-treated and shot by a Circassian or Bashi-Bazouk near Chernavoda, the invitation being made at the request of V. Jousefovitch, gentilhomme de la Chambre de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie, Délégué de la Croix Rouge.

On proceeding to the place indicated, we found the woman in question, and, having interrogated her, she declared as follows :—

On the Wednesday last, the 12th instant, she, Constantine, aged 30, native of Roumania, inhabitant of the village Russovat, on the borders of the Danube, about a mile from Chernavoda, with her husband, Ioan Makno, in company with other fourteen peasants, went to the fields to collect their maize and cut hay for a Russian detachment of thirty Cossacks stationed in their village.

That while at work she saw at some distance off two Circassians or Bashi-Bazouks on horseback coming towards them at full speed, on which they all endeavoured to save themselves by hiding in the bramble or woods, she also endeavouring to hide herself on one side and her husband on the other, when suddenly her hiding-place was observed by the Turks, who within a few paces was fired at by one of them, the ball striking her left hand, wounding her thumb and then piercing her stomach on the left side, killing her child, of which she was in the family-way with of eight months, by passing through its neck, and coming out on her right side.

She added that the second Turk or Circassian intended apparently to strike her with his gun, but the first murderer having made a sign to his comrade, they went off in pursuit of the rest of the peasants, firing at them, but, as some Russian Cossacks came out of the village, while other Circassians joined the two first, a fight commenced between them, whereon she fainted.

Her husband is still in the village with her young children.

When the Turks were driven away, the villagers and her husband came and lifted her on a waggon, and transferred her to the village, when the following day (Thursday) she miscarried, the child being dead by the passage of the musket ball through the neck. On the same day (Thursday) she was removed to Chernavoda, whence she was brought down by steam to the present temporary hospital of the Red Cross.

She is here since Friday, the $\frac{10}{10}$th instant, this being Tuesday, the $\frac{0}{16}$th instant, in the care of the Red Cross Society.

This woman, by the doctor's statement, is in a dangerous state, without hope of recovery ; a thermometer being applied to her armpit indicated 39 degrees.

This statement, taken in my presence, was from the woman's own lips, and in the Wallachian language.

There appears no doubt the woman has suffered all she stated, but there is no proof of how this took place.

Although I regretted to see the poor woman in such a state, I am afraid the invitation was based more on a sensational movement than otherwise, as it was stated in evidence by the doctor in attendance that she had been shot at twice, as her hand had got one shot apart, whereas I was able to fathom that only one shot was fired, striking the left hand and passing through the body, unfortunately too seriously.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. C. BROWN.

No. 329.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September 26.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 24 Septembre*, 1877.

NOTRE Ministre à Athènes vient de me télégraphier qu'une bande d'une trentaine d'individus, ayant pour Chef un certain Emmanuel Dimitrion, est partie de l'Eubée pour la Macédoine.

J'en ai prévenu le Gouverneur-Général de Salonique, et j'ai chargé Photiades Bey de faire les démarches nécessaires auprès du Gouvernement Hellénique.

Toutefois, je crois devoir porter ce qui précède à la connaissance de votre Excellence.

No. 330.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 413.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 25*, 1877.

I GRIEVE to inform you that Lieutenant Layard died yesterday morning of typhus fever at head-quarters of Suleiman Pasha at Shipka. Please inform Secretary of War.

No. 331.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 415.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 25*, 1877, 7 P.M.

THE Greek Consul at Canea, in Crete, having allowed a Cretan Ottoman subject provided with a Greek passport to escape with important papers of dangerous character to join a revolutionary meeting in the island, in spite of Governor's representations, Porte has addressed a note to Greek Minister here demanding the immediate recall of the Consul.

No. 332.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, September 26*, 1877.

I HAVE seen Turkish Minister with reference to your telegram of yesterday. His Excellency says that Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs has assured him that a Greek steamer has been sent in pursuit of Dimitrius' band.

He also states that M. Tricoupi has informed him of the passage into Epirus of a band in order that he might advise Ottoman authorities, and that M. Tricoupi had said that conduct of Greek authorities on the frontier was to be inquired into as to this band having left Greece.

(Confidential.)

His Excellency showed me a note dated 20th instant, from Server Pasha, expressing satisfaction at assurances given by Greek Government as to control over Committees.

No. 333.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 553.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 26*, 1877.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 1,065 of the 11th instant, forwarding two reports from Mr. Fawcett on the condition of the remaining Christian inhabitants of Carlova and Sopot, which I have read with much interest.

I approve of your having granted leave to Mr. Fawcett in order to enable him to visit Roumelia, and to take part in the distribution of the Compassionate Fund.

You will take such steps as you may deem advisable for making known the state of things reported by him in the proper quarter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 334.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 27.)

(No. 57.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, September 12, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit for your Lordship's information the following copy of a telegram which I have addressed on the 10th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople:—

"The Consular Agent at Samsoon informs me that three Abazian women married to Christians and Christians themselves are since several days sequestered from their husbands because their mothers were Mussulman. It is demanded, in order to leave them free, that their husbands should declare themselves Mahommedans. The Vali of Trebizond has no jurisdiction at Samsoon."

Having received as yet no letters from Mr. Consular Agent Doulcet, I can for the present add no further details to the foregoing communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 335.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 27.)

(No. 58. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, September 12, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch which I have addressed this day to Her Majesty's Ambassador to acquaint him that in spite of orders issued by the Porte at the request of the German Embassy, the local authorities evade adopting the necessary measures in order to ascertain whether there are Caucasian emigrants willing to return to their country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 335.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Trebizond, September 12, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the German Embassy wired on Sunday last to the Italian Consul here, who acts on behalf of Russian interests, that orders have been sent by the Porte to the Pasha of Trebizond to draw up, in concert with him, a list of the Caucasian emigrants willing to return to their country, and that the means of transport would be devised subsequently.

No solution having been given as yet to the incident reported in my despatch to your Excellency of the 14th ultimo, M. Riva could not communicate personally, nor through his Dragoman, with Ibrahim Pasha, but he did so through the Interpreter of the Vilayet.

The substance of the answers given by the Pasha at different times is (1), that there were no emigrants willing to return to their country; (2) that he had, however, communicated the Vizerial Order to the Committee of the Abazian Emigration, but that no one had appeared to ask to be repatriated; (3) that he did not consider himself in duty bound to make inquiries in order to ascertain whether there were emigrants wishing to be sent back; (4) that, even should there be any Mingrelians, to whom alone, he said, the order referred, willing to return to Russia, their children and wives would, at all events, be detained in Turkey, the latter being Abazians.

M. Riva proposed then that the Pasha and himself should each delegate a Commissioner, or that he should be allowed alone to make out a list (to be subsequently submitted to the Pasha for verification) of those willing to go back to their country, but both proposals were rejected.

However, it having been known to the public that the Italian Consulate had orders to draw up a list of those desiring to depart, 38 heads of families (among whom one Mussulman), representing 192 souls, inscribed themselves within a few hours on the 10th instant; but one of them named Mako Zuleja, a Mingrelian of the village of Atara, having been assaulted by Mussulman Abazians on his departing and at about 100 yards from the Consulate, those still in it were afraid of leaving, and did so only at dusk, while no one else presented himself since that moment.

Zaptiehs having arrested Zuleja and his assailants, they were all conveyed before the Abazian Committee, when the former, having been thrashed, and having had his hands bound up, was sent on board a Greek steamer which was embarking Abazians for Heraclea. His family, numbering six souls, was embarked afterwards.

The Italian Consul sent his Dragoman to the Committee to complain of the proceeding, and was told that Zuleja's apprehension had taken place in consequence of an old debt, and that he had embarked willingly.

Yesterday and to-day 14 emigrants, representing 69 souls, inscribed themselves at the Italian Consulate.

The total number is now 52 families, together, 261 souls.

In these there are 21 Mingrelian chiefs of family, 29 Christian Abazian, 1 Mussulman, and 1 Georgian.

The above details have been furnished me by M. Riva, who told me that he had been quite moved by the joy exhibited at the prospect of returning to their country by those who appeared in his office.

Ibrahim Pasha, who takes no initiative, but allows those surrounding him to do as they please, entrenches himself in the decision of the Committee in all matters relating to the emigration, and the Committee seems decided to sustain by all means, and against the most indisputable evidence, that there is not a single emigrant willing to return to Russia.

The proceedings of Ibrahim Pasha and of the Committee can be comprehended, if, besides its avowed instructions, the Porte has transmitted secret orders for their acting as they do.

However, as a supposition of this kind is inadmissible, for, leaving aside all other considerations, the Porte would be acting against its interests, it must be presumed that the authorities at Trebizond are actuated by an erroneous sense of duty, or by extreme proselytism.

Therefore, if the Porte wishes its real intentions to be carried out, it should send here without delay a special Commissioner to take in hand the management of the emigration.

The transport of the Abazians to other parts of the Empire is carried on briskly. More than half the number landed here have been already embarked, and although, with the exception of the case mentioned by the Italian Consul, there may be no other emigrants who have been removed against their will, the conduct of the local authorities is liable to give ground to a contrary suspicion, and to future complicated claims on the part of the Russian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

September 14, 5 p.m.

P.S.—I avail myself of a retard in the departure of the mail to report that the total number of emigrant families inscribed up to this moment at the Italian Consulate for repatriation is 24 Mingrelian, 4 Russian, 1 Georgian, 70 Christian and 1 Mussulman Abazian, or 100 families, numbering together 478 souls.

A. B.

No. 336.

Acting Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 27.)

(No. 56. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, September 19, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed (inclosure No. 1), for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of the 15th instant to Her Majesty's

Ambassador at the Porte, reporting the arrival of Tartar refugees from Toultcha at Cavalla and at Salonica, the raid by Greek brigands on the Mussulman village of Pashalee in Thessaly, and the arrival of irregular Albanian troops for the protection of the frontier, and the requisitions they made on their way.

I have also the honour to inclose herewith (inclosure No. 2) a copy of my despatch of the 15th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting the proclamation of martial law in Thessaly, with a copy of the instructions on this head from the Greek Minister at Athens to the Greek Consul at Larissa. That the Italian Consul at Salonica had telegraphed to his Ambassador and received instructions against Italian subjects being compelled to pay forced contributions for the war, and that fears were very general that all the money raised does not go for the war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 336.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, September 15, 1877.

Sir,

REFERRING your Excellency to my last despatch, I have now the honour to report that the persons mentioned in the telegram from the Porte to his Excellency the Vali have arrived at Cavalla, and 600 have been landed here. They are principally old men, women, and children, from Toultcha, Tartar emigrants, and those who have come here have been lodged temporarily in this city until places can be found for them in the villages. Those landed at Cavalla, who are to go to the environs of Drama, have been very hospitably received by the Mahommedan population there, who have had pity on their miserably destitute condition.

I learn from Mr. Suter, under date the 12th instant, that of the forty Greek brigands from over the border who attacked the Turkish village of Pachalee, twenty were captured on recrossing the frontier by the Greek police, and are lodged in the prison at Lamia. In this attack some houses in Pachalee were pillaged and a few burnt, but the loss of life did not exceed four killed, because the Christians of Maslee, a neighbouring village, went immediately to the rescue, and by their prompt aid saved their neighbours the Mussulmans from more serious injury.

The 1,600 irregular Albanian troops, of whom 400 are horsemen, who came from Ochrida to Tricala, will be stationed on the frontier. From 1,500 to 2,000 more are expected to come to be distributed between Feneree, Pharsala, and Domoka. These are volunteers, who refuse to receive any remuneration beyond an oke of bread each man, and forage for their horses, per day, and are under no kind of discipline whatever.

On their way from Ochrida, these troops made "requisitions," and committed excesses in all the villages they passed through, and Mr. Suter says "it may be apprehended that as they are under no control their lawless proceedings may involve grave consequences in the extreme border localities."

The greater part of the muskets which were sent from Constantinople have been distributed throughout the country near Larissa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 336.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, September 15, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that martial law was proclaimed in Thessaly on the 6th instant, and official intimation of the Regulations in the Greek and Turkish languages required foreign subjects to conform to them. The Greek Consul at Larissa having asked for instructions from his superior at Athens, received the following reply:—

"Consul Hellène, "*D'Athènes à Larissa, le 8 Septembre.*

"Répondons votre demande que loi militaire ne pourrait comprendre sujets étrangers en vertu capitulations. Ainsi vous devez protester en cas que mesures seraient prises par autorités locales contre sujets Hellènes par suite proclamation loi militaire.

(Signé) "CH. TRICOUPIS."

In this city a difference having arisen between our Vali, Nousret Pasha, and M. Foscarini, the Italian Consul, with reference to forced contributions for the war exacted from Italian subjects, the Consul telegraphed to his Ambassador and received for reply, that subjects of the Italian King are not liable to be forced to pay contributions for the war, nor their property to be distrained for non-payment, and his Excellency the Vali has desisted from making "requisitions" on Europeans.

The 65,000 piastres required for purchasing 10,000 rifles is said to be a voluntary contribution from the inhabitants of Salonica, which no doubt it is in some respect because the rich Jews and Turks have willingly come forward with money, but those who do not follow this example are compelled to pay their quota. It is reported further "requisitions" will be made for the maintenance of the refugees who are expected to be sent to this vilayet.

What troubles the people most is, that they have no guarantee whatever that much larger sums are not taken from them than those required by the Porte, nor that the whole of the "requisitions" go for the objects set forth; for some years ago in this very vilayet very large sums were taken for rifles, but not a rifle was ever bought.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 337.

Lieutenant-Colonel Siborne to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 27.)

(No. 32.) *Galatz, September* 22, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a letter which the General commanding the Russian troops at Vilkow, near the mouth of the Kilia branch of the Danube, sent on the 2nd instant by a flag of truce to the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" at Sulina, and which refers to an intended attack on the Turkish forces there.

I may remark that the Commission has received no such notification as that mentioned in the letter, and that the "Cockatrice" is the only neutral man-of-war in the Danube.

The announcement caused a considerable panic in the town, and a great part of the inhabitants left in barges, steam-tugs, &c., for Kedrilles, a village at the mouth of the St. George's branch, as did also the foreign Consuls, with the exception of the British Vice-Consul, Mr. Stokes, who remained at his post.

Our latest news from Sulina is of the 6th instant, and up to that time no attack had taken place, nor does it appear that any has since happened, or we should most probably have heard of it.

It is difficult to believe that the Russians, with the means at their disposal, really contemplate a serious attack on a harbour held by ironclads, and the inference is that they probably wish, by rendering the Turks anxious for the safety of Sulina, to cause them to withdraw some of their ships from other points.

It is also possible that they may object to the presence of the "Cockatrice" at Sulina, as in some sort exercising a kind of surveillance over their proceedings in the Lower Danube, and have accordingly hoped to induce her to leave Sulina altogether.

She appears, however, not to have left the station, but to anchor, according to the weather, either between the piers below the chain, which is drawn at night by the Turks across the entrance, or in the roads outside.

Her continued presence at Sulina is very reassuring to the employés of the Commission and other remaining inhabitants, and Commander Musgrave appears to have always acted with good judgment, both as regards the Commission and the inhabitants, and in some instances to have afforded material assistance to the latter in towing barges containing themselves and families to a place of safety.

Mr. Kuhl, our resident engineer, who has been in a manner left in charge of our interests at Sulina, has taken all possible precautions as regards the security of the Commission's property.

The Commission has, meanwhile, authorized the Heads of Departments to grant leave of absence to all other employés who may wish for it, and whose presence is not absolutely necessary at Sulina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. SIBORNE,
British Commissioner on the Danube.

Inclosure in No. 337.

Lieutenant-General Verewkine to Commander Musgrave.

M. le Capitaine, *Le* $\frac{\text{13 Août}}{\text{1 Septembre}}$ 1877.

J'AI l'ordre d'attaquer l'établissement militaire de la flotte Ottomane à Soulina, où elle a débarqué des troupes, de l'artillerie, et du matériel de guerre, ce dont la Commission Internationale des bouches du Danube, ainsi que les autres stationnaires neutres, en avaient été avertis.

Par conséquent, prévenant de même M. le Commandant du Stationnaire Anglais, j'ai l'honneur de le prier, dans un délai de vingt-quatre heures du moment de la remise de cette information, de se choisir à temps la position qui conviendrait à M. le Commandant durant l'attaque, parceque après les vingt-quatre heures écoulées, je compterai de mon droit d'entreprendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour l'exécution des ordres qui me sont donnés.

Comme témoignage de l'information faite par les autorités Russes et reçu par M. le Commandant à temps, j'ai l'honneur de prier M. le Commandant d'avoir l'obligeance de m'en livrer un certificat.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) V. VEREWKINE, *Lieutenant-Général de l'Armée Impériale Russe, Chef de la 36me Division d'Infanterie.*

No. 338.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September 27.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 26 Septembre,* 1877.

JE crois devoir vous signaler la conduite des troupes Russes. Lors des derniers combats de Loftcha, elles se sont acharnées sur les cadavres des soldats Ottomans tombés sur le champ de bataille. Ces faits sont attestés par le correspondant du "Times" à l'armée Russe, qui affirme avoir constaté de visu qu'un grand nombre de cadavres Turcs avaient la poitrine nue et percée de plusieurs coups de bayonnettes, et que quelques uns même avaient eu la cervelle brûlée à bout portant. Or, si ces blessures ont été faites dans le but d'achever les blessés tombés sur le champ de bataille, elles constituent une violation formelle des stipulations de la Convention de Genève. Si au contraire, elles s'adressaient à des cadavres, nous ne pouvons y voir que le plus triste et le plus douloureux retour vers les pratiques des peuples les moins civilisés.

No. 339.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 27.)

(No. 416. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 27, 1877, noon.*

I HAVE communicated your last telegram about the Gueshoglus to the Sultan, and I have strong reasons to hope that they will be sent here and that their lives are safe. Porte is making no difficulty in the matter; the opposition comes from the military authorities.

No. 340.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 27,* 1877.

GRAND DUKE telegraphs, dated Gorny Studien, September 26:—

"Nearly 10,000 Turkish infantry with artillery from Sophia succeeded in penetrating to Pleyna through our cavalry on September 22; details not known. All quiet as regards Rustchuck corps and Balkans."

No. 341.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 27,* 1877.

FOLLOWING sent to Constantinople to-day:—

"Advisers of Prince Milan urge necessity of delaying war, the idea of which is so very unpopular, and, with a view to this, endeavour to induce Emperor Alexander to grant Prince Milan a reprieve and more money in the meantime. Whether Servia will thus be able to coax the Czar and delude the Porte through the winter, so as to throw herself fully prepared into the contest in the spring, remains to be seen, as Russia still insists on an early co-operation.

"Should Austria waive her objection, there is always the possibility of a Russian corps d'armée crossing through Servia in winter, and the stores of grain contracted for point to such a contingency."

No. 342.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 1074. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 13,* 1877.

WITH reference to Mr. Stuart's despatch to your Lordship No. 198 of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to state that I have instituted careful inquiries into the truth of the statement made to me that Greek criminals were released from prison by the Greek Consular authorities in Constantinople and sent to Athens to serve against Turkey. It is very difficult to obtain trustworthy evidence on such a matter. Those who could afford it are either afraid or unwilling to do so. I inclose copies of a very confidential report to me from Mr. Sandison with its inclosures, and of a statement made by a person who has the means, I believe, of obtaining full information.

I cannot say that the case is proved; but my impression is that the statement originally given to me was well-founded.

I beg to inclose copy of a letter which M. Condouriotis, the Greek Minister at the Porte, has addressed me on this subject, and of my reply to his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No 342.

Mr. Sandison to Mr. Layard.

(Very Confidential.)
Sir, *Therapia, September 11,* 1877.

IN accordance with your Excellency's instructions, I have not failed to make further inquiries respecting the Greek prisoners reported to have been sent to Greece for enlistment as volunteers in the Greek army since the breaking out of the war between Turkey and Russia.

Although the persons who supplied the information persist in maintaining that Greek prisoners were actually sent for the purpose to Greece, it would seem hardly possible to accept their assertions as well-founded unless they are properly supported by satisfactory evidence, which they declare cannot be obtained from the Greek Consular employés, who naturally refuse to give it.

Before entering more fully into this question, it may be well to observe that there are two classes of Greek prisoners at Constantinople—first, those who are condemned by the local police courts; and, secondly, those who are charged with offences against Greek subjects. The former, as a rule, are detained in the Turkish State Prisons, the latter in the Greek Consular Prison.

The inclosed letter from an ex-police functionary shows that, independently of a large number of Turkish subjects, a good many Greek prisoners belonging to the first category have been accepted, under the circumstances explained in the letter, as volunteers in the ranks of the Greek army; and, according to M. Volgo, this might even be proved to a certain extent.

The case, however, stands differently in regard to the prisoners of the second category; for, though it is positively maintained that they were in reality sent for enlistment to Greece by the Greek Consul here, in the French steamer, on various occasions, as well as in two schlepps belonging to —— of Constantinople, the persons who made these assertions, and who still maintain them, will not consent, from considerations of personal safety, to have their names divulged.

I am, however, satisfied that what they have repeatedly said in connection with this matter was an honest statement of what they know to be real facts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 342.

M. Volgo to Mr. Sandison.

Pera, le 4 Septembre, 1877.

Monsieur,

C'EST avec un véritable plaisir que je m'empresse de vous fournir les renseignements que vous m'avez exprimé le désir d'avoir à propos de la question de savoir si le Gouvernement Hellénique a fait retirer de nos prisons des détenus, sujets Hellènes, pour les incorporer dans ses armées.

En effet, depuis le commencement de la guerre Turco-Russe, plus de 250 sujets Hellènes, prisonniers libérés, ont été expulsés du territoire de l'Empire, à destination de la Grèce, comme cela s'est pratiqué de tout temps, tandis que d'après le bruit qu'on faisait circuler, c'était le Gouvernement Grec, qui de son autorité avait réclamé et pris du Gouvernement Impérial tous les sujets Hellènes condamnés pour délits ou crimes, et qui subissaient leurs peines dans nos prisons d'Etat. Il serait plus vrai de dire que le Gouvernement Impérial, agissant selon les règles de la police intérieure de Sûreté-Générale, débarrassait le pays en temps opportun d'un élément aussi dangereux pour la sûreté publique. La plupart de ces expulsés rentraient dans la capitale.

Depuis les préparatifs belliqueux de la Grèce, la plupart d'entr'eux vont combattre dans les rangs de l'armée Grecque comme volontaires. D'après mes renseignements, je puis vous assurer que depuis le commencement de la guerre Turco-Russe, plus de 20,000 hommes sont partis pour la Grèce des divers points de l'Empire, parmi lesquels on doit compter un certain nombre de conscrits. Ce contingent se compose pour les deux-tiers de Grecs, Bulgares, et Arméniens, sujets Ottomans. A l'ombre de la police Turque et grâce à sa surveillance illusoire des comités dirigés par les premiers négociants Grecs de la capitale, ceux-là mêmes qui sont en relations commerciales journalières avec le Gouvernement fonctionnent et agissent au grand jour pour enrôler des volontaires destinés à l'armée du Gouvernement Grec. Je puis au besoin vous indiquer ces comités, et donner les noms de ceux qui les dirigent.

Je me considérerai trop heureux de me mettre à votre disposition pour d'autres renseignements dont vous pourrez avoir besoin.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) STAMATELLO VOLGO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 342.

Statement respecting Greek Criminals sent from Constantinople.

(Traduction.)

Il y a trois mois des volontaires commencèrent à partir pour la Grèce. On envoya alors, en diverses fois, par les bateaux des Messageries, 150 individus emprisonnés pour différentes causes. Des observations ayant été faites au Gouvernement Hellénique sur l'inconvenance de ces procédés, celui-ci après avoir nié les faits, selon son habitude, s'empressa de donner des instructions à la Légation Hellénique à ce que non seulement elle eût à nier les faits mais qu'elle fit des investigations pour découvrir qui a pu divulguer le secret.

Malheur à qui osernit en faire seulement mention! Il est sûr d'être assassiné et il n'est plus possible d'en parler.

Depuis qu'ils ont reçu d'Athènes le reproche en question ils ont cessé de donner des passeports à des sujets Ottomans, car ils ont donné de tels passeports à des sujets Ottomans dont ils avaient fait des sujets Hellènes et qu'ils faisaient passer comme des réserves (Rédifs). Ils nient aussi cela et il n'y a pas moyen de le prouver.

L'homme qui a donné ces informations est un sujet Hellène. Il était membre de la Commission qui ramassait de l'argent pour la Grèce. Il craint que son nom ne soit divulgé car s'ils venaient à l'apprendre ils le ruineraient pour sûr.

J'ai envoyé une personne convenable pour se renseigner auprès de l'huissier qui conduit habituellement des prisonniers à Syra, et lorsque mon homme a voulu l'interroger sur ceux qui avaient été expédiés de la manière sus-indiquée il lui a répondu qu'il avait des ordres de ne pas en faire mention et il lui a conseillé de ne pas se mêler de cette affaire.

Inclosure 4 in No. 342.

M. Condouriotis to Mr. Layard.

Bouyoukdéré, le $\frac{14}{26}$ *Août*, 1877.

Mon Cher Collègue,

DANS le dernier Blue Book j'ai lu une dépêche que votre Excellence a adressée à Lord Derby en date du 19 Juin dernier, et par laquelle vous informez sa Seigneurie que le Consul-Général de Grèce en cette ville a mis en liberté quelques individus emprisonnés par le Consulat-Général pour divers crimes, et qu'il les a ensuite envoyés en Grèce avec d'autres individus dangereux choisis parmi les plus mauvais sujets de la population Grecque, pour être expédiés aux frontières Turco-Hellènes, afin de commettre des actes d'agression et d'outrages.

Je suis désolé, mon cher collègue, de ce que la personne qui vous a fourni cette nouvelle vous a induit en erreur. Et d'abord les prisons du Consulat-Général ne contiennent pas de criminels, car les crimes commis par les sujets Hellènes sur des sujets Ottomans sont jugés, ainsi que vous le savez, par les tribunaux du pays, et les criminels, sujets Hellènes, sont détenus dans les prisons Ottomanes. Lorsque le cas d'un crime entre sujets Hellènes se présente le prévenu est immédiatement envoyé à Syra, pour être jugé par la Cour d'Assises, et il subit ensuite sa peine dans les prisons de l'Etat.

Je viens par conséquence vous prier de vouloir bien rétracter les informations susmentionnées à moins que vous puissiez me fournir des preuves incontestables sur les faits relatés dans votre rapport.

Confiant à l'esprit de justice de votre Excellence, je ne doute point que vous prendrez en considération ma juste demande.

Je profite, &c.
(Signé) A. CONDOURIOTIS.

Inclosure 5 in No. 342.

Mr. Layard to M. Condouriotis.

Therapia, September 12, 1877.

My dear Colleague,

I HAVE not returned an earlier answer to your Excellency's letter of the $\frac{14}{26}$th ultimo, as before doing so I was desirous of instituting full inquiries into the truth of the statement made to me, and published in the Blue Book, to the effect that Greek subjects had been released from prison by the Greek Consular authorities in Constantinople and sent to Athens to serve against Turkey. It is right that I should now inform your Excellency that the result of these inquiries is not such as to furnish the incontestable proof you require that the statement in question was well founded. I therefore readily accept your Excellency's declaration that the person who gave me the information upon which it was based misled me, and I shall have much pleasure in so informing the Earl of Derby,

who will, no doubt, take steps to give publicity to your Excellency's explanation and denial.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 343.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 28.)

(No. 1080.) *Therapia, September* 15, 1877.

My Lord,

M. CONDOURIOTIS has been good enough to read to me a despatch from M. Tricoupi, referring to a declaration made to him by Server Pasha that Photiades Bey had been instructed to take note ("prendre acte") of a statement, attributed to the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs, that the Hellenic Government had "assumed the direction" ("assumé la direction") of the Greek revolutionary Committees. M. Tricoupi states that Photiades Bey had misreported his words, which were that the Hellenic Government "exercised a legitimate control" on these Committees; his meaning being that it was able to prevent them acting in any way contrary to the law, or to the international duties of Greece. It is evident, M. Tricoupi adds, that Photiades Bey had perceived that he had misinformed his Government, as he had not carried out its instructions to "prendre acte" of the words alleged to have been used.

M. Tricoupi refers M. Condouriotis to his despatch of the 22nd August/3rd September to the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London, which is to be communicated to your Lordship, and a copy of which M. Tricoupi has sent to M. Condouriotis, for a full explanation of his views with regard to the assurances required of, and given by, Greece as to her intention not to attack Turkey, nor to promote insurrections in the border provinces.

I observed to M. Condouriotis that he could not expect the Porte to be satisfied with these assurances, as they were invariably accompanied by the reserve that they only applied to the present time. The Turkish Government naturally felt that this meant that Greece was not yet prepared to attack Turkey and to foment insurrection in the Turkish provinces, but that she would do so when it was convenient to her and she was ready. Under these circumstances, he could not be surprised if Turkey were to take measures to anticipate wanton aggression upon her.

M. Condouriotis replied that, if Turkey did attempt to go to war with Greece the result might not be favourable to her. He argued that the Hellenic Government had a right to make the reserve to which I had alluded, and that England had done exactly the same thing when she declared that she would remain neutral in the present war so long as her interests were not affected by it; Greece, he maintained, said no more than this. The advance of Russia might endanger Hellenic interests which it was the duty of the Hellenic Government to defend and maintain, and, such being the case, it was necessary that it should take such measures as might be necessary for the purpose.

I pointed out to M. Condouriotis that there seemed to be a flaw in his comparison. England had declared that she would not remain indifferent if certain British interests were threatened by one of the belligerents in the present war. But Greece was now openly engaged in preparations to attack a neighbouring and friendly country with which she declared herself at peace, and which she did not even accuse and suspect of any intention of interfering with her interests. It was, on the contrary, the Power that had invaded Turkey, which, according to the Greek view, threatened Hellenic interests. In other words, Greece was ready to make an unprovoked aggression upon Turkey, and to aid in her destruction by Russia, because she had a grievance, not against Turkey, but against Russia. So illogical a reason had never before, I ventured to think, been given by one Power for waging war upon another.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 344.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 28.)

(No. 1081.) *Therapia, September* 15, 1877.

My Lord,

IN consequence of the war and of the disorganized state of the administration in the provinces the Porte is unable to carry out the new electoral law passed by the

Turkish Parliament. The Deputies to the Lower Chamber will consequently be elected in accordance with the regulations established for the Constitution of the first Parliament. The elections will, I believe, take place next month, and the Parliament will meet at the beginning of November. It will be composed, it is expected, of nearly the same members as the one recently dissolved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 345.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 28.)

(No. 1082.) *Therapia, September* 16, 1877.

My Lord,

OWING to some difficulties in the way of the advance of the million sterling agreed to by the Imperial Ottoman Bank, the Turkish Government has not yet been able to avail itself of that sum. These difficulties have now been got over, and the money is at the Porte's disposal. However, about 300,000*l.* will go to the United States for the payment of arms and munitions of war purchased in the country, and 400,000*l.* to M. Zarifi and other Greek bankers in Constantinople for advances recently made by them; but the tithes of Smyrna, which had been assigned as a guarantee for the repayment of the latter amount, will be released. 1,500,000*l.* sterling will remain of the new loan the Turkish Government is about to raise on that part of the Egyptian revenue which has been released by the recent arrangement with the Bondholders of the 1854, 1855, and 1871 loans.

The Minister of Finance now contemplates an additional issue of caimé and a reform of the monetary system in Turkey. The Commission appointed to inquire into this matter has made a report, of which I inclose a copy.

With the resources which these operations will give to the Porte it hopes to be in a position to carry on the war for some months to come.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 345.

Report of Commission on Caimé System.

LA Commission bien que convaincue de l'utilité de retirer les monnaies de mauvais aloi (dites bechlik et métallique) ainsi que d'ailleurs le Gouvernement l'a reconnu en maintes occasions, pense que, vu les circonstances très sérieuses que nous traversons, il n'est pas possible de penser pour le moment à la démonétisation de cette monnaie qui nécessiterait un déhours considérable, mais recommande au Gouvernement Impérial de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour effectuer ce changement aussitôt que la crise actuelle le lui permettra.

2. La Commission est d'avis qu'il est urgent pour améliorer le prix du caimé, de décréter immédiatement la démonétisation de la piastre en cuivre, qui devient de fait inutile par la création de celle en caimé et prête à l'agiotage tout en annonçant simultanément que les fractions de la piastre en cuivre de $\frac{1}{40}$, $\frac{1}{20}$, et $\frac{1}{10}$ auront cours légal dans tout l'Empire comme sub-division de la piastre caimé, et seront reçues comme telles par toutes les caisses publiques, tant dans la capitale que dans les provinces, pour toute somme inférieure à 5 piastres. Dans l'éventualité d'une demande de monnaies en cuivre par le fait de la circulation dans les provinces le Gouvernement devra en frapper, si la demande produit un agio sur cette monnaie, jusqu'à égalisation des prix du caimé et du cuivre.

3. La Commission pense qu'il est absolument nécessaire de procéder le plus tôt possible à l'échange des caimés en cours contre des caimés imprimés sur du papier offrant toutes les garanties nécessaires contre la contrefaçon. Ces nouveaux caimés devront être composés des mêmes coupures qui existent actuellement à l'exception de celle de une piastre, laquelle devra être remplacée par une pièce en métal autre que le cuivre dès que le Gouvernement aura décidé la démonétisation des monnaies de mauvais aloi.

Constantinople, le 29 *Mai*, 1877.

No. 346.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 28.*)

(No. 1085.)
Therapia, September 17, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE informed your Lordship in my despatch No. 1075 of the 13th instant of the steps that I have taken with reference to the Mingrelians who allege that they have been brought to Turkey against their wish. As the matter is now in the hands of the German Ambassador, I have thought it desirable not to act upon the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 479 of the 31st ultimo, at any rate for the present, especially after the statements contained in Mr. Biliotti's despatch to me of the 7th instant, copy of which has been sent to your Lordship. I have, however, advised the Grand Vizier to give strict orders to the local authorities not to permit any interference with the return of the emigrants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. H. LAYARD.

No. 347.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 28.*)

(No. 1087. Confidential.)
Therapia, September 17, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a draft Circular, given to me confidentially, which the Porte proposes to send to the foreign Representatives at Constantinople as to the measures to be taken with regard to non-Turkish subjects in districts and towns in which the state of siege and martial law have been proclaimed. The Minister for Foreign Affairs is desirous of avoiding any step which might be considered a violation of the international engagements of the Porte, and might give rise to remonstrances on the part of foreign Powers, especially of England. Should your Lordship, therefore, be of opinion that the terms of the proposed Circular would be contrary to the capitulations, or in any other way objectionable, I think I could prevail upon Server Pasha to make such alterations in it as your Lordship might suggest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 347.

Extract from the Porte's intended Circular to the Foreign Embassies at Constantinople.

S'IL y a lieu de procéder à l'arrestation d'un étranger pour imputation de crime ou de délit ou de pénétrer dans son domicile pour y procéder à des perquisitions ou à l'arrestation des personnes qui s'y seraient réfugiées, l'autorité Consulaire compétente devra prêter immédiatement son assistance à l'autorité militaire Ottomane qui lui en ferait la demande motivée. S'il n'est pas immédiatement satisfait à sa demande, l'autorité militaire pourra passer outre. Toutefois pour pénétrer dans le domicile de l'étranger le Délégué de la dite autorité devra se faire assister par trois habitants notables du voisinage, qui devront signer le procès-verbal de l'opération. Les personnes de nationalité étrangère sont justiciables des conseils de guerre régulièrement institués pour les crimes et délits contre la sûreté de l'État, contre l'ordre et la paix publique. Elles pourront être assistées de leurs drogmans.

L'autorité militaire peut exiger des personnes de nationalité étrangère la remise de toute arme et munitions que ces personnes auraient en leur possession.

A l'effet de constater l'existence de ces objets et d'en assurer la remise, la dite autorité peut faire toutes réquisitions en procédant comme il est dit ci-dessus. Dans le cas où le territoire placé sous le régime de l'état de siége, ou une localité de ce territoire, sera exposé à une invasion immédiate de l'ennemi ou aura été le théâtre de troubles graves, l'autorité militaire pourra inviter les personnes de nationalité étrangère y demeurant de se transporter ailleurs dans un délai déterminé. Passé ce délai les étrangers qui seront restés n'auront à compter que sur la protection que l'autorité locale sera en mesure de leur accorder eu égard aux circonstances.

No. 348.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 28.*)

(No. 1088. Confidential.)
Therapia, September 18, 1877.

My Lord,

SERVER PASHA told me yesterday that both the Austrian and German Ambassadors had asked him whether, in the event of the Russians being compelled to recross the Danube, the Turkish armies would follow them into Roumania.

His Excellency replied that he could not say what further military operations might be necessary in case of a retreat of the Russian army, but he wished to ask, in his turn, whether the right of the Porte to send forces into the Danubian Provinces, which it considered a part of Turkish territory, was contested. Count Zichy and Prince Reuss, who, I may mention, were not together when they put the question to Server Pasha, answered that they were not prepared to say that it was.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 348[a].

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 28.*)

(No. 1089. Confidential.)
Therapia, September 18, 1877.

My Lord,

THERE is, no doubt, a strong desire prevailing amongst the most intelligent and thoughtful Turks that Turkey should avail herself of the first opportunity to endeavour to obtain peace, and to put an end to a war which, whatever may be its ultimate results, can only bring the greatest calamities upon her. They are of opinion that if the Turkish arms should obtain any further successes, and the Russians be compelled to suspend the campaign for this year, the Sultan should appeal to the European Powers to intervene, expressing, at the same time, his willingness to grant of his own accord all the concessions that have been asked of him for the better government of his Christian subjects, except such as might be at variance with his sovereign independence and authority. On these terms Turkey should be prepared to make peace, and it is hoped that if Russia persisted in carrying on the war without any definite or justifiable object Europe would interfere to stop it.

I have reason to believe that the Sultan himself, and some, if not all, of his Ministers, would be ready to make such an appeal. Server Pasha, however, when speaking to me on the subject yesterday, observed that, if the Turkish armies were victorious and a peace were concluded, some guarantees ought to be exacted from Russia that she would not again make an unprovoked aggression upon Turkey. Neither the Treaty of Paris nor the transfer to the Danubian Principalities of a part of Bessarabia, which were both intended to prevent Russia from attacking Turkey, have, unfortunately, his Excellency said, been of any avail; consequently, some more effective guarantees with this object ought to be obtained.

I asked Server Pasha what was the nature of the guarantees that he had in view. He replied that it was a matter which required great consideration, and that the time was not yet come to express an opinion upon it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 349.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 28.*)

(No. 1090.)
Therapia, September 18, 1877.

My Lord,

M. ZEIMANN, who is probably known to your Lordship as the distributor of funds sent, I believe, principally from Manchester for the relief of the sufferers by the war of last year in Servia, and by the insurrection in Bosnia, arrived last week in Constantinople, and called upon me to communicate some information with regard to the refugees from the latter province now in Austrian territory, the number of which he estimated at above

100,000. He stated to me that he was in intimate relations with the Chiefs of the Bosnian Christians who had passed over into Austria, and were now maintained at a great expense by the Austrian Government. They were, he said, heartily tired of their situation, and would willingly return to their homes if they could obtain some efficient guarantee for their lives and property from the Turkish Government. He was authorized, he added, to make this declaration on their behalf.

M. Zeimann further stated that the Bosnian insurgents were disgusted with the Servian agents who had provoked the insurrection, and especially with Colonel Despotovich, whose military capacity they had learnt to despise, and whom they accused of living in luxury and safety whilst he sacrificed those whom he had induced to rise against the Turkish authorities. This feeling was so strong that Colonel Despotovich had narrowly escaped assassination from his own followers.

I asked M. Zeimann whether he had seen the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, and as he replied that he had not, I recommended him to do so and to repeat to him what he had stated to me. He has since called upon Count Zichy, who begged me to request him to do so.

I had an opportunity of speaking yesterday to Server Pasha on this subject. His Excellency said that the Porte was already aware that the Bosnian refugees, whom he placed at a far lower number than that given to me by M. Zeimann, were anxious to return to their homes, and about 300 families had already recrossed the frontiers. Orders had been given by the Porte that they should receive every protection from the local authorities and be treated with kindness. The Turkish Government were willing to deal in the same manner with all those who would come back; but, added his Excellency, whilst the Bosnian Chiefs ask for some guarantee from us for their security, what guarantees are they prepared to give that they will not repeat the acts of rebellion of which they have been guilty?

I pointed out to his Excellency the great importance of the Porte availing itself of the overtures made by the fugitive Bosnian insurgents, and of thus bringing to an end an insurrection which had led to such grave consequences, and which was still a source of serious embarrassment to the Porte. I also introduced M. Zeimann to Karatheodori Effendi, the Under-Secretary of State, in order that he might explain to his Excellency the wishes of the refugees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 350.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 1091.)
Therapia, September 18, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Bourgas, reporting on the state of affairs in his district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 350.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

Bourgas, September 11, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that all firearms in the possession of Bulgarians are being collected and confiscated by the Turkish authorities of the towns in this sandjak.

At Yamboli and Slimnia a number of Bulgarians have been executed; at the former town fifteen, as I am told, from the village of Fundukli, who were accused and convicted of murdering thirty-four Zebeks in the month of July last; those being at Slimnia are, I believe, from the villages of the district, but I am not aware what crimes they are charged with.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

No. 351.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 1092.)
Therapia, September 18, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Prevesa, reporting the proclamation of martial law at that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 351.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Layard.

Prevesa, September 8, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 4th instant, about an hour before sunset, martial law was proclaimed at Prevesa, and on the following morning (5th instant) I telegraphed the above to your Excellency in the following terms:—

"Martial law was proclaimed here yesterday. Proclamation includes Prevesa, Arta, Radovizi, Tzumerica, Pargn, Fanari, and villages."

In consequence of the above Proclamation the greatest fear prevails among the Christian inhabitants, and one or two arrests have been made. The first person who was arrested, and who is still kept under arrest, is a rayah named Dimitri Skefferi. His house was searched by the military authorities about a couple of hours after the publication of the above Proclamation.

M. Skefferi, who belongs to one of the principal families in the place, and whose eldest brother is brother-in-law of M. Apostoli Varzelli, dragoman of the late Russian Vice-Consulate at Prevesa, was arrested on the grounds of his having kept up a correspondence with the above gentleman, as well as with M. George Varzelli, late Russian Vice-Consul for Prevesa and Arta, who, since the breaking out of hostilities between Russia and Turkey, reside at Santa Maura. He is, moreover, suspected of having aided and encouraged Raynis to cross over to Greece and join the Greek army. The authorities also intended to arrest Dr. Garzuni, formerly in the Turkish service, but private warning having been given to him on the night of the 5th instant, he left for Santa Maura early next day. A boat from one of the gun-boats stationed in this port was sent in pursuit of Dr. Garzuni, but failed to overtake him, so that he now finds himself in perfect safety at Santa Maura.

Late on the 5th instant I received a despatch from M. Kypriotis acquainting me that martial law had been proclaimed at Janina on the 1st instant.

A second circular was sent to me by the Mutessarif inclosing copy of the Proclamation published at Janina, a copy and translation of which I have the honour to inclose.

As regards vessels attempting to enter the port of Prevesa after sunset, a gun will be fired to make them stop, after which the batteries will sink them.

Shooting has been prohibited.

A redoubt is being constructed at Punka, opposite Prevesa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 351.

Proclamation of Martial Law.

(Translation.)

BE it known to all that, owing to the present exceptional circumstances, the first duty of the Government is to watch over the safety and tranquillity of all, and to prevent the introduction of ill-advised plans and instigations tending to disturb the tranquillity of the country; the first wish of His Imperial Highness has been at all times, and especially during the present difficult circumstances in which we find ourselves, to afford to these parts as well as to the other parts of the Empire full and permanent enjoyment of safety. In consequence of which an Imperial Decree has been issued here, as well as in other parts where it has been found necessary, which places the provinces of Janina, Thessaly, and Prevesa, in a state of siege, in accordance with Article 113 of the Constitution, and this

has been communicated wherever it has been considered necessary. Therefore, from to-day the duties of the civil authorities pass over to the military authorities; and whereas this martial law is about to be made public, those who should commit acts or make use of words injurious to the public order shall be speedily and conclusively tried before the constituted court-martial; the guilty shall be punished immediately according to the crime committed, but after it shall have been proved. The military authorities in case of need shall take away the arms and ammunition from the people. Private dwellings which it might be considered necessary to search shall be searched in night as well as in day-time. Suspected persons, persons whose past life has been bad, and those who have no fixed habitation, shall, in case of need, be expelled or sent to a distance from this. Journals shall be suppressed, all such as publish news tending to disturb the public spirit, and every meeting shall be prohibited; and the present notice has been given in order that every person should be made aware of it and conduct himself within the proper limit.

Janina, August 20, 1877.

No. 352.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 1093. Very Confidential.)

Therapia, September 19, 1877.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH repeated orders have been given by the Porte and by the Governor-General of Adrianople, to the military authorities at Philippopoli, to send the two Gueshoglous, accused of complicity in the Bulgarian insurrection, to Constantinople, they have been persistently disobeyed.

Server Pasha told me when I saw him, on Monday last, that they were already on their way to Constantinople, and I have no doubt that such was his impression at the time; but yesterday I received a telegram from Vice-Consul Calvert informing me that, although the Mutessarif of Philippopoli had received fresh orders from the Governor-General to send off the two prisoners, Rifaat Pasha and Ibrahim Pasha had opposed their departure, and had placed them under stricter arrest than before.

The American Minister has sent his dragoman to Philippopoli, and is making great efforts at the Porte, in order to have the Gueshoglous brought to Constantinople, in the hope of thus saving their lives.

It is scarcely surprising that the military authorities at Philippopoli should be unwilling to send the Gueshoglous to Constantinople, where they, no doubt, suppose foreign influence will be brought to bear to prevent the execution of the sentence of death which I am informed has been passed upon them. There is no doubt, I fear, that these gentlemen are most seriously compromised in the Bulgarian rising of last year, and that they have done much to excite the Bulgarians against the Turkish rule, and to promote the designs and intrigues of the Russian and Panslavist agents in Bulgaria.

This appears to be admitted even by those who take a great interest in them, and who are exerting themselves in their behalf. I am assured that they were the principal informants of Mr. Schuyler, and that upon their reports were mainly founded the exaggerated accounts that were published in England last year of the "atrocities" committed by the Turkish irregulars upon the Bulgarian Christians. Drafts of their letters to that gentleman are said to have been found amongst their papers seized by the Turkish authorities.

It is further stated that they were in correspondence with Mr. Gallenga, and with persons in England who were advocating the cause of Bulgarian independence, and promoting by their counsels the rebellion against the Turkish Government. Their friends plead in their excuse that it was chiefly under the influence of Mr. Schuyler that they connected themselves with the intrigues in favour of Russia.

If, as I am informed, proofs of these facts have been discovered by the Turkish authorities, they are not unnaturally disposed to be severe with these misguided young men, as so many ignorant persons have, in consequence of their example and teaching, been brought to the gallows. It is scarcely, indeed, just that they should escape, whilst those that they have misled should suffer.

The representations of Mr. Maynard in favour of one of the Gueshoglous, on the ground that he is a Consular Agent of the United States, can scarcely, it appears to me, be sustained either in equity or by the Capitulations. I am assured at the Porte that the Mr. Gueshoglou in question was arrested before the Firman recognizing him as United States' Consular Agent was issued,—a statement which Mr. Maynard controverts. It is certain, however, that Gueshoglou was imprisoned before the Firman reached Philippopoli. Admitting even that the Firman was issued before his arrest, the Minister for Foreign Affairs states that it was asked for in the name of Gueshoff (a Russian, or Slavic, version of the Turkish name), who was described as a British subject—which he is not—and that the conditions upon which such a Firman is always granted are declared, in the document itself, to be that the person in whose favour it is given is not an Ottoman subject, and that there is no local objection to his occupying the post of Consular Agent. In the case of Gueshoglou, Server Pasha contends, both these conditions were violated. However, Mr. Maynard insists on claiming him as a person in the employment of the United States, and asked me to support him, on the ground that Gueshoglou was entitled to British protection, which I could not conscientiously do.

Although justice and right may be on the side of the Turkish Government, and these two unfortunate men may deserve the fate to which they have been condemned, prudence and humanity are on the side of their lenient treatment. This I have strongly pointed out privately to the Grand Vizier, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Ahmed Veyk Pasha, and they have readily admitted that it is so. I trust, therefore, that the military authorities at Philippopoli will not be allowed to persist in refusing obedience to the orders sent to them.

I have still hopes that the lives of the Gueshoglous will be spared, although it appears that Suleiman Pasha is determined that they shall not go to Constantinople, and I fear that the Grand Vizier will end by yielding to him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 353.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 1094.)

Therapia, September 19, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 671 of the 26th of June last, respecting the outrages alleged to have been committed last spring on some Persian pilgrims at Medina, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Jeddah, stating that no investigation of the matter has yet been made. Mr. Beyts adds, however, that he is informed that the Pasha who was dispatched from Constantinople to conduct the inquiry is now at Mecca awaiting the arrival of the Grand Sherif, who is shortly expected from Suez.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 353.

Consul Beyts to Mr. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Jeddah, August 30, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's Confidential despatch dated May 17, commanding me to report on the investigation which is to take place at Medina in connection with the outrages committed some time ago on Persian pilgrims, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that no investigation has yet taken place. The Pasha who came from Constantinople for the purpose is now at Mecca, awaiting, I am told, the arrival of His Highness the Grand Sherif, who is hourly expected from Suez.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. BEYTS.

No. 354.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 1096.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 19, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a report from Commander Drummond, of Her Majesty's ship "Rapid," upon the state of the Baltchik and Kavarna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 354.

Commander Drummond to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *"Rapid," Varna, September* 16, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have visited Baltchik, Kavarna, and Kaliacra.

At Baltchik I was informed that there are still refugees there, who are afraid to return to their homes. Large quantities of grain are being exported from that place, coming, it is said, from the Silistria district.

On arriving off Kavarna, I learnt that the Mudir had gone to Shabler to endeavour to get the tithe-rent charge from that place and the adjacent villages, and consequently I did not go up to Kavarna itself. Few people have returned there. It was reported that the Russians have appeared to the south of Mangalia, and that Circassians had again been at Shabler, and that the inhabitants of the villages in the district did not like to return to their homes.

I was told that a ship could get a cargo of grain from about Kavarna, if notice was sent around to the villages beforehand, from which it would appear that a considerable part of the harvest must be saved, though I am told that by far the largest part was not yet gathered, which I can well believe. I was also informed that most of it could be got in, if, in the course of three weeks, the district was again in security.

From the different reports that I heard, I infer that the country is still quite unsettled, and that, if the inhabitants went back to their homes now, they would be liable to be pillaged by Circassians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. DRUMMOND.

No. 355.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 1097.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 19, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1066 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Stokes to Consul Reade, respecting the threatened attack by the Russians on Sulina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 355.

Vice-Consul Stokes to Consul Reade.

Sir, *Sulina, September* 3, 1877.

I HAVE now the honour to inform you that on Sunday, the 1st instant, a Russian officer, accompanied by three men, bearing a flag of truce, came within a mile of the town. The Kaimakam, accompanied by an escort, went out to meet him, when the Russian officer intimated that he wished to see Commander Musgrave, of Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice." On receipt of this request Commander Musgrave went out and met the Russian officer, who then handed Commander Musgrave a notice, in writing, to the following effect, that the Russians would attack the place within twenty-four hours. I inclose a copy of the notice handed to Commander Musgrave.

My colleagues and myself proceeded on board the "Cockatrice," when Commander Musgrave informed us all of the notice he had received, giving us all a copy of the same, and at the same time offering to use his best efforts with the Ottoman authorities to allow all lighters carrying passengers, and even property, to proceed to a place of safety. This permission he obtained, and on the following morning all the lighters and tugs, having all the remaining population on board, with their effects, proceeded to Karkalese (St. George's Mouth). A very few people are left in the town, and all shops and stores are empty and closed.

On the same evening, after having had a consultation with Commander Musgrave, I deemed it prudent to remove my wife and family to a place of safety; and on the following morning, the 2nd instant, M. Kühl, the chief engineer of the E. C. D.* of the Danube, kindly placed a Commission steam-tug at my disposal, and I conveyed my wife and family to Karkalese, where they are now in safety.

The Russians have as yet made no attack, but it is reported that they have made great preparations for the purpose. On the arrival of the British lighters and tugs at Karkalese, the Commission steam-tugs (by instructions from M. Kühl), gave them every assistance and aid. On the 1st my colleagues all left the place, and returned here yesterday, the 5th; but they did not consider it prudent to sleep at Sulina, and went out in the roads, in a steam-tug, to sleep. They go again to-morrow morning to Karkalese.

The Austrian Consul has done all he could to persuade me to leave with them, but this I objected to. When the Russians attack the place I shall take my chance. We find it difficult at times now to get a meal of victuals, as there is only one small eating-house left. Every servant has gone from the place, therefore we must look out for ourselves.

I have received your last letters, and shall implicitly attend to your kind instructions respecting my complaint, which I now regret ever having made, as I think neither Commander Musgrave nor M. Kühl did the thing intentionally, although the fact I represented to you was correct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) OCTAVUS STOKES.

No. 356.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 1098.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 19, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1067 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of the reply of Server Pasha to the notes addressed to him by Prince Reuss and Count de Moüy with regard to the release by the Pasha of Salonica of the three persons condemned to five years' imprisonment for complicity in the assassination of the German and French Consuls at that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 356.

Server Pasha to Prince Reuss.†

Le 13 *Septembre*, 1877.

EN réponse à la note que votre Altesse a bien voulu m'adresser le 29 Août au sujet de trois des condamnés de Salonique, j'ai l'honneur de lui communiquer les informations suivantes:—

Ces trois individus ont été transférés à Salonique en vertu d'une mesure générale qui ordonnait la translation de tous les détenus de Widdin dans des localités plus éloignées du théâtre de la guerre.

Le Gouverneur-Général de Salonique avait demandé à la Sublime Porte des instructions à l'égard de ces trois détenus: il lui a été enjoint de leur faire subir les peines prononcées contre eux. Cet ordre a été exécuté bien avant la communication de l'Ambassade Impériale.

En ayant l'honneur de porter ce qui précède à la connaissance de votre Altesse, je ne

* *Sic.*

† A similar letter was addressed to Count de Moüy.

plûts m'empêcher de lui déclarer que la Sublime Porte a eu toujours soin de respecter ses engagements solennels envers les Puissances amies et de ne permettre aucun acte contraire aux arrêts de la justice.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SERVER.

No. 357.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 28.*)

(No. 1100.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 19, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a report from Mr. Fawcett, Her Majesty's Consul-General and Judge of the Supreme Court, which he has been good enough to make at my request, on the state of the country that he has recently visited for the purpose of affording relief to the destitute fugitives, from the money so generously and humanely given by Lady Burdett-Coutts and the contributors to her Turkish Compassionate Fund. The report, as your Lordship will no doubt observe, has been written under the feelings of pain and excitement which the horrible scenes witnessed by Mr. Fawcett have not unnaturally excited; but I believe it to be a true description of the state to which the country invaded by the Russian troops has been reduced. I have received only to-day fresh accounts of many starving, and almost naked women and children, who are now coming from the side of Sofia.

Your Lordship will, I feel sure, be glad to hear that Mr. Fawcett calculates at 6,714 the number of fugitives, almost exclusively women and children, whom he has been able to relieve.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 357.

Mr. Fawcett to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Constantinople, September 19, 1877.*

AS I have recently visited the districts affected by the war south of the Balkans, and have conversed with numerous sufferers, both Turk and Bulgarian, I understand that your Excellency is desirous of receiving any statement I may have to make on the condition of those provinces since their temporary occupation by a portion of the Russian army.

In the first place, I have to record my conviction that the present incursion of northern barbarians has probably caused more human misery than even the invasion of Visigoths, under Fridigern and Alaric, who fourteen centuries ago desolated these same fertile countries. From Sopot to Yeni-Zaghra, a distance of 150 miles, the country, as far as the towns go, and I use the word advisedly, is a desert, and, in my opinion, it is a country almost unequalled in Europe for fertility. It lies between the Great and Lesser Balkans, and is, in fact, one great garden. The towns are nearly all built on the débris of what centuries have brought down from the mountains, which form healthy undulating slopes, all of which are abundantly watered by clear streams coming out of the limestone; groves of walnut and plum trees surround these once happy villages, while below extends the vast valley of the Toundja, rich in corn, maize, and tobacco. In addition, all these places were enriched by a peculiar local industry, namely, the manufacture of "shyak," or native woollen cloth, which brought a large return to the district, and which was carried on principally by water-power. All this is now changed: from Sopot, with the exception of Carlova, which has only been sacked, all these towns, Kalofer, Kazanlik, Mujlis, Ufanlis, Haïnkioi, Yeni-Mahallé, &c., down to Yeni-Zaghra, are smoking ruins, the population massacred or fled, and only a few starving wretches left, cowering in what were once their homes. One is naturally inclined to ask what horde of savages has passed over this smiling land; have Attila and his Huns come to life again? The answer is, that all that has happened has been the presence for three short weeks of a detachment of the great army of His Imperial Majesty the Tzar of Holy Russia.

In a former despatch I informed your Excellency that I believed, from statements made to me by sufferers, that when the Russians retired they disarmed the Turk population and gave their weapons to their Bulgarian neighbours. This I believe to be true,

but I added that I was also informed that the Bulgarians had fallen on their Turk neighbours and massacred them. From more minute inquiries I have since made on the spot, I am inclined to think that an organized band of Bulgarians from the other side of the Balkans, carrying a sort of badge or uniform, accompanied the Russian column, and that when the Russians retired it was this corps (calling themselves "Vengeurs") who commenced the hellish work. Once Suleiman Pasha's army arrived and the Russians in retreat, the turn of the others came, and Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks rivalled each other in horrible reprisals.

I have seen with my own eyes several badges, hats and bridles, which were worn by this corps of "Vengeurs."

If the aim of those who direct the armies of the Czar was to make it impossible for Turk and Bulgarian again to live side by side, they may have accomplished their design, but at a price which will cover its perpetrators with infamy for all ages.

I have been told by both parties, Turk and Bulgarian alike—"We were happy; we had forgotten the past year; the troubles had not reached us. We knew but little of insurrectionary committees, or even of the war, when suddenly this awful calamity, without warning, fell upon us."

It is further to be remarked that the country is depopulated. The rich harvests are wasting for want of workers; those which have been got in mostly have been burned out of mere wantonness.

As to the Bulgarian men, those who have not fallen under the vengeance of the Turks are in the Balkans with the Russians. The Turks who have escaped have, as your Excellency knows, all fled south.

No impartial observer can upbraid the Turkish Government; it is corrupt and incapable for good,—an oligarchy, the members of which are mostly the sons of slave mothers, are not likely to be patriotic for disinterested,—but there is this to be said, the Turkish Government, bad as it is, upholds religious toleration, and, moreover, practices it; whereas we know what is to be expected from orthodox and despotic Russia.

A remarkable example of toleration was the massacre of Jews by the Bulgarians of Kyzanlik. This was explained to me to be an easy manner of repaying the money advances made by the Hebrew community there. The poor Turk, as you find him in the provinces, is a simple, honest man—fanatic, if you will, and capable of but little improvement, but with a certain sort of natural nobility arising from his being of a conquering race.

The Bulgarian, on the other hand, is crafty and avaricious, and has in his very gait the brand on him of four centuries of slavery. He is more capable, however, of material improvement, as may be seen from his dwellings, his gardens, and fields, and he has besides the advantages of a more elastic religion than his Mahommedan neighbour. He has also the rare chance of increasing his race; his sons are not taken for the best part of their lives by conscriptions; he marries, and has large families. I believe if left alone, from their fecundity alone, they would shoulder the Osmanlis out of Thrace.

Your Excellency will remember, in a former despatch from Carlova, I mentioned the terrible state of that town, where 8,000 women and children were dying with hunger and fear. I remonstrated most strongly with the Mudir on the infamy of allowing these helpless creatures to be nightly visited and tortured, or worse, by roving bands of Bashi-Bazouks, and, by your Excellency's request, I brought the matter before Ahmed Vefik, the Vali of Adrianople, who promised at once to see to it, and also at once to remove the Mudir.

In conclusion, I wish to inform your Excellency of the state of the country lying between Adrianople, Philippopoli, and the Balkans. The roads are overrun with marauding parties of Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks. I know not which are the worst ruffians, though having been attacked by the former, I give them the preference. These people have been armed by the Turkish Government with Winchester rifles, which they never intend to use but against helpless people; for instance, on our return by rail from Yeni-Zaghra, they commenced firing at bullocks and droves on the roads from the windows, and finally firing down and through the carriages of the train itself.

I conceive the Turkish Government is much to blame for calling out these scoundrels, and it will (should the country ever be settled and the Government remain) have a difficult problem to solve in disarming them. The only answer is, of course, that when a nation is fighting for its life, it must make use of what weapons it can, though these, I think, are likely to pierce the hand of the employer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HENRY FAWCETT,
Consul-General and Judge.

No. 358.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 28.)

(No. 1101.)
My Lord,

Therapia, September 21, 1877.

WITH reference to Consul Biliotti's despatches relating to the Mingrelian families alleged to have been removed against their will by the Turkish authorities to Trebizond, and the action taken in this matter by the foreign Consuls at that port, and by the German Embassy, I have the honour to inclose an extract from a report by Captains McCalmont and Trotter, on the military operations in Armenia, describing the manner in which the inhabitants of Armenian villages are stated to have been forced to leave their homes, and to have been taken across the Russian frontiers by the Russian authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 358.

Captain McCalmont to Lieutenant-General Sir C. Dickson.

Head-Quarter Camp, Southern Army Corps, near Zor, August 31, 1877.

(Extract.)

WE hear many complaints from the Pashas and others, some of which appear to be well-founded, tending to show that the Russians, to say the least of it, have not been over scrupulous in their treatment of the Armenian inhabitants of Turkish territory, or in the measures to which they have resorted to induce the people to leave their homes. One of our zaptiehs, a Mahomedan who has recently been in the Allesghud district, tells us that letters received there from Armenians, who had passed over with the Russians to Igdyr, report them as being now reduced to a state of destitution, and obliged to beg their livelihood.

It also appears from the statements of two Armenians, natives of Eyass, between this and Bayazid, who have escaped from Igdyr, that the Russians forced these people and their friends to abandon their homes, promising them at the same time a daily payment of two piastres until such time as they should be able to provide for themselves. The Russians took possession of their carts and such things. Their promises, however, do not appear to have been kept. The young and able-bodied men receive two piastres a-day, but have been compulsorily drafted into a force organized for the protection of the Russian villages from raids which may be apprehended from every quarter. A great number are left to starve. The old and feeble beg their food from door to door. The position of these poor people seems to be a most pitiable one, for if any of them succeed, at the risk of their lives, in returning to their homes, it will be only to find the little property that is left to them a wreck.

In addition to hearing this story from the Armenians, Abil Bey, the Chief of the Staff, has mentioned it to us. He stated, moreover, that he would communicate with General Dergukalcoff, and requested us to act as mediator on behalf of the oppressed Christians.

We replied that, in our position of Military Attachés to the Ottoman army, to remonstrate with the Russian Commander would be beyond our province, however anxious we might be, on the grounds of humanity, to ameliorate the condition of the unhappy people. We added, however, that the subject would be mentioned to Her Majesty's Ambassador.

We are placed in a somewhat delicate position. It is only a few days since it was our duty to remonstrate in strong language with the Mushir on behalf of the Russian Christians, so that we may come to be regarded as their champions in this camp while apparently unwilling to bestir ourselves when the case is reversed, when the Turkish Armenians implore to be delivered from their so-called benefactors, the Russians. There is, of course, the possibility that the Armenians who came to the camp with this story are employed by the enemy as spies. I should have some hesitation in believing it were it not for independent testimony.

No. 359.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 28.)

(No. 1102.)
My Lord,

Therapia, September 20, 1877.

CONSUL BILIOTTI having informed me by telegraph that, according to the British Consular Agent at Samsoon, three Abazian women married to Christians and themselves Christians, had been separated from their husbands because their mothers were Mahomedans, and that they would not be allowed to return to their husbands unless they declared themselves to be Mussulmans, I brought the matter unofficially to the notice of the Porte, and a telegram was immediately sent to the Governor of Djanik, who has jurisdiction over Samsoon, calling his attention to the conduct of the authorities at that place, and directing him to inquire into the matter without delay, and to report the result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 360.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 28.)

(No. 1104. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Therapia, September 21, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1093 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Consul Blunt, informing me that Ahmed Vefyk Pasha has promised to do his best on behalf of the Gueshoglus.

Mr. Blunt writes to me privately: "Ahmed Vefyk Pasha appears most willing to treat the Gueshoglus with leniency, but the matter does not appear to be entirely in his hands. During the conversation I have just had with him on the subject, he desired me to inform you confidentially that the Grand Vizier's order to send the Gueshoglus to Constantinople has been countermanded by the Seraskier, and that under the circumstance 'ils encourent du danger.' I gather from what Ahmed Vefyk Pasha told me that the military authorities have taken umbrage at the attempt made by certain parties to procure the release of one of the Gueshoglus by representing him as United States' Vice-Consul."

I warned Mr. Maynard that such would probably be the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 360.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, September 18, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state to your Excellency that having spoken unofficially to Ahmed Vefyk Pasha on the subject of the Gueshoglus, now imprisoned at Philippopoli, his Excellency requested me to inform you that he will do his best on their behalf.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 361.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 28.)

(No. 1105. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Therapia, September 21, 1877.

SOME delay has taken place in answering your Lordship's telegram of the 10th instant, informing me that Her Majesty's Consul at Taganrog had reported that a Greek ship had arrived in the roadstead of that port from Constantinople on the 10th August, provided with a safe-conduct for passing the blockade by the Turkish Government, and directing me to inquire whether a safe-conduct of the nature had been given to the vessel

in question to enter or leave Taganrog. This delay has been caused by the necessity of making full inquiries into the matter.

I lost no time in submitting your Lordship's telegram to the Grand Vizier and to Server Pasha, and in pointing out to them the serious consequences which might arise if the report that had reached your Lordship proved to be true. They both at once admitted that the granting of such passes might gravely compromise the blockade, and declared that if they had been issued it was against their positive orders. But there was reason to suspect that persons in the Palace had again been endeavouring to obtain them for certain Greek houses, and I was informed confidentially that the question had been even discussed in the Council of Marine, and had been referred to some Turkish legal advisers of the Porte, who had given an opinion that such passes could be granted without affecting the blockade.

The Grand Vizier subsequently admitted that this had been the case, but assured me that he was determined to resist the intrigue which was on foot to favour certain Greek houses, and that, if necessary, he would appeal to the Palace itself on the subject.

It was only last night that I received through Mr. Sandison an assurance from Karatheodori Effendi, the Musteshar of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, "that he was authorized by the Grand Vizier to state to me categorically that no pass or passes of any kind had, as reported, been given to Greek vessels bound to Russian seaports, and that the strongest instructions have again been sent to the military and naval authorities to the effect that no such passes should ever be granted under any circumstances whatsoever."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 362.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 28.)

(No. 42. Political.)

My Lord, *Adrianople, September* 13, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of yesterday's date, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, with its inclosure, relative to Mr. Consul-General Fawcett's interview with Ahmed Vefyk Pasha on his return from the Balkan districts, and to his Excellency's administrative measures.

I beg further to inclose a copy of a Report which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Willshire, of Dedeagatch, relative to the state of his district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 362.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, September* 12, 1877.

ON the 10th instant I had the honour to receive the following telegram from your Excellency:—

"If Mr. Fawcett has arrived, tell him to bring to the notice of Ahmed Vefyk Pasha the state of affairs described in his despatch from Carlova of the 5th instant, received to-day. Tell him that he was quite right to relieve Bulgarian Christian sufferers. He had better return to Constantinople."

I communicated the above message to Consul-General Fawcett on his arrival yesterday evening, and this afternoon Mr. Fawcett and I called on his Excellency Ahmed Vefyk Pasha, with whom we had a very satisfactory interview. Mr. Fawcett gave the Vali an account of the relief he had distributed to Turkish and Bulgarian fugitives at Carlova, Sopot, Maglish, Lagahanly, Khidr Kioi, and Yeni-Zaghra, as well as to several caravans of fugitives whom he fell in with on the road. He also entered fully into the state of affairs at Carlova, and made special mention of Sherif Tchaoush, a sergeant of police at Sopot, who distinguished himself by his courage and humanity in saving 600 Bulgarian women and children, fugitives from the Balkans. Sherif Tchaoush made himself responsible for the safety of these poor people, and redeemed his pledge.

Mr. Fawcett also made favourable mention of a lieutenant in the army named Mustafa Aga, who was stationed at Sopot, and who ably seconded Sherif Tchaoush in this excellent work. Ahmed Vefyk Pasha said that he had decided on removing the present inefficient Mudir of Carlova, and that he had been endeavouring to persuade one of the loyal Bulgarians of Adrianople to take up the appointment, hoping thereby to induce the Bulgarian fugitives in the mountains to return to their homes, but that the proposal had been declined. Mr. Fawcett thereupon suggested the advisability of appointing the above-mentioned Sherif Tchaoush, who had acted so nobly at Sopot, to take temporary charge of that Mudirlik. Ahmed Vefyk Pasha appeared inclined to consider the proposal, and to act upon it.

Mr. Fawcett also called his Excellency's notice to the great number of unburied corpses at Kyzanlik, Yeni-Zaghra, Maglish, Shipka, and, in fact, all over the country. These bodies, he observed, if left, contrary to all sanitary laws, to decompose in the open air, must breed an epidemic. The Vali promised to attend to this matter.

His Excellency complained of the great difficulty he experienced in obtaining a sufficient number of competent officials to employ in carrying out the special measures which are called for by the present exceptional circumstances, the services of most of the old employés being now occupied in the non-combatant departments of the army, not to mention that the police officers have been drafted off for military duty in the field.

I take this opportunity to forward to your Excellency the inclosed Report from Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis, relative to the various measures which Ahmed Vefyk Pasha has taken with a view to the public welfare. With reference to this subject, I have further to report that the Vali has formed four cavalry patrols of fifty men each, for the purpose of protecting the country between Adrianople, Yeni-Zaghra, and Yamboli from Circassian marauders and highwaymen. He is also taking measures to facilitate the gathering-in of the crops in the district of Yeni-Zaghra, and has sent off some 200 reapers to assist in this task.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 362.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Adrianople, September* 11, 1877.

SINCE the installation of his Excellency Ahmed Vefyk Pasha in the office of Governor-General for the Vilayet of Adrianople on the 1st instant, several minor reformatory measures have been introduced into the local administration, which have, to some extent, contributed to the relief of the public mind in the present depressed state of affairs.

One of the Governor-General's first acts was to summon before him the members of the local municipality, to whom, after delivering a speech, he issued orders that the price of bread should be reduced, and its quality and manipulation improved, and sold according to justly-regulated weights and scales.

He likewise established the currency for mercantile transactions, by fixing the value of the 100 piastres caimé notes at par, which hitherto was at 65 piastres.

Having inspected the public prisons, his Excellency, I am told, mitigated to shorter terms of imprisonment such prisoners as were recommended for good-conduct, released several, and promised to refer and obtain from the central Government a reduction of the sentences against others.

These acts of solicitude have won for him the esteem of the public, and many prisoners now pining under long confinement will, I am told, greatly benefit by his kindly feeling and desire of doing good.

Among other reformatory measures, the Governor-General strictly enjoined the judicial authorities to be diligent and assiduous in the discharge of their important duties, and to administer with justice and impartiality the laws of the Empire. He particularly impressed and warned them against the serious responsibility of keeping anyone in prison unconvicted.

It has also been ordered that no relaxation of public business will be allowed during the Fast of the Ramazan, and that all public servants will be required to attend regularly at the different departments. The military tribunal has likewise been recommended to relax somewhat the severity of its laws.

As regards the drilling of the National Guard, which is composed of Mussulmans and non-Mussulmans, the latter will be free to attend day instead of night drill during the Ramazan.

The stringent regulations which prohibited circulation in the town after sun-down have also been relaxed, and the public is free to move about up to midnight.

In short, Ahmed Vefyk Pasha, from all I hear, evidently shows much solicitude in the care and comfort of all classes of the Sultan's subjects without distinction of race or creed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 362.

Vice-Consul Willshire to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Dédéagatch, September* 8, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report that during the past month nothing has occurred to trouble the public peace, though the passage of troops might have led to expect the contrary. Some Albanian irregulars, being under no restraint, conducted themselves in such a way as to give some trouble at the railway station, by refusing to start at the fixed hour, and obliging the station master to send down at night an engine from the station to the fort to fetch three bags of biscuits that had been left behind. They set all authority at defiance, and one of the officers ill-treated our Mudir for not having provided a sufficient number of porters for discharging the lighters containing their ammunition and clothes.

It is to be regretted that neither the lightermen nor the porters have received any remuneration from the Turkish Government for their work in disembarking the troops. This has caused general dissatisfaction, and whenever a Turkish Government vessel appears, all the porters run off and hide themselves among the bushes in the country. The consequence is, that the local authorities are obliged to send to the villages to procure men to do the porters' work.

I have the pleasure to inform you that, since my last despatch, fifty soldiers have been sent here as a guard; these and the zaptiehs are quite sufficient to protect the town from any *coup de main* on the part of brigands or deserters.

Of Petko no traces are to be found, but it is averred that the man Thoma, whom he carried off from Maronia, has been murdered by him.

I am sorry to say that the conduct of a detachment of zaptiehs which had been sent to Maronia to search for Petko's associates was as bad as that of the brigands themselves. They ill-treated the inhabitants to such an extent that they obliged many of them to abandon their homes and seek refuge at Macri and other places.

Many emigrants, especially Bulgarians from the seat of war, have been sent to the neighbouring villages. As many as 860 were sent to Ferré, but have since been distributed in other villages. I am afraid little is done by the Turkish Government to help them, and most of them must be in great distress. In some villages the inhabitants are kind to them and do their best to assist them; but, if report is true, at Souffli, where the Greek population predominates, the inhabitants have refused to give them any assistance whatever. These emigrants are mostly women and children, with a few old men.

Last Monday four Bulgarians were sent from Adrianople to Souffli and hung there by order of the Vali.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEONARD W. WILLSHIRE.

No. 363.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 62. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, September* 15, 1877.

THE petition which I stated in my last despatch as having been handed to Samih Pasha by a deputation from the Committee in Apokorona I have now the honour of transmitting to your Lordship in a translated form.

It states that, not only has the demand of the Cretan Christians, made by their representatives in two successive Parliaments, for an extension in their favour of the Organic Law, been left unheeded, but also their request that a Commission, speaking Greek, might be sent here to examine their complaints on the spot, has been similarly ignored. The reticence of the Porte this year, in spite of their reiterated demands, they believe is due to the misrepresentations of the Vali, who has frequently expressed his conviction that the Christian Deputies in the Assembly had no real desire to change the Organic Law, but that they were unduly influenced in their conduct by a few designing members among them. It is to refute such a notion that the petitioners have organized the present meeting, and they go on to attribute all the faults and shortcomings of the local administration and the miscarriage of justice to imperfections in, and to violations of, the Organic Law, the changes they desire to see introduced in which they had set forth at length in last year's sitting of the General Assembly. They repeat anew their request that a Commission, knowing the native language, may be sent to inquire into their grievances on the spot, with the view of effecting a cure; and they conclude by praying his Excellency to transmit their petition to the Imperial Government.

In an accompanying letter, also addressed to the Pasha, after complaining of the anarchy which reigns throughout the island, the blame of which they lay at the door of the authorities, they declare that the People's Assembly, having accomplished its mission, viz., the signing of the petition, has dispersed, with the exception of the Delegates, who had been furnished by the several districts with written powers of attorney, and these (twenty-four in number) will await the result of the petition. They protest, finally, that the Christians of Crete have no idea of revolting against the Government, nor any desire to maltreat their Mussulman fellow-countrymen.

I regret to find that the Deputies express the resolution to keep a permanent Committee together until an answer is given to their petition; and I have reason to believe that the Cretan Committee in Athens counsels the adoption of this step.

Some few families of Moslem refugees have begun to return to their homes, encouraged thereto by the presence in one of their villages of a company of regular troops, purposely dispatched by Samih Pasha; but the general mass of the refugees show little inclination to move.

In order to check the prevalent passion for sheep-stealing, the Government has been organizing in this neighbourhood a company of about 150 Mussulmans, who in time of war would go by the name of Bashi-Bazouks. After furnishing them with rifles, it next became necessary to furnish them with pay; but the requisite sum not being forthcoming, the newly-formed corps is threatened with extinction. Similar bodies formed of Christians have been organized in Christian districts, but I understand that here, again, the money difficulty is an insuperable one.

Most of the block-houses in Sphakia have been evacuated by their garrisons. Ten of the largest in the island, formerly tenanted by regular troops, are now garrisoned by zaptiehs, and two others, after the departure of the troops occupying them, have been dismantled by the mountaineers without any attempt being made to discover and punish the authors of the deed. The abandonment of these forts would seem to show that the Government, should disturbances break out, will not attempt mountain warfare, but confine its operations to the plain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 363.

Petition addressed to Samih Pasha by the Christian Committee in Apokorona.

(Translation.)

Excellency. *Klema, in Apokorona, August* $\frac{3}{15}$, 1877.

THE Christian people of Crete has with deep sorrow acquired the profound conviction that, as in the past year so in the present, the Sublime Porte has rejected the just and lawful demands of the Christian Deputies of the General Assembly touching the modification and completion of the Organic Law.

Notwithstanding all the repeated refusals of the Sublime Porte, it was hoped that at the least the Imperial Government would listen to the last prayer of the Christian Deputies concerning the sending of a Commission conversant with the Greek language (a language spoken without any exception by the inhabitants), in order that it might examine on the spot, and come to a clear understanding of, their demands. Contrary, however, to all

expectation, although up to to-day months have passed since the declaration of the Assembly, there has not been a word about the sending of such Commission, and this brings the Christian people to despair of the future extension of its rights, the more so as it attributed the refusal of the demands of the Assembly to misunderstanding and misleading information given to the Sublime Porte concerning their character and aim. Besides, they have reason to suppose that your Excellency has expressed, both by word of mouth and by writing, that the demands do not emanate from the will and command of the Christian people of Crete, but from the malevolent action of a very few representatives.

The Christian people of Crete perceiving how destructive an influence such a misunderstanding may have upon the sought-for improvement of its privileges, and desiring to prevent the consequences of such a misunderstanding, finds itself under the necessity of proceeding to the present manifestation, in order that the Government may be persuaded that the Christian representatives in the Assemblies of this year and last year requested by authority the modifications and completion of the Organic Law of the island, on broader bases, supported on principles of real self-government; also that Crete might not come within the pale of the published Constitution, the more so as all the Christian people of Crete strenuously protested last February against their assimilation to the other unprivileged provinces of the Ottoman Empire; and further, that our aim is to remain within the limits of legality, requesting the rectification of what is amiss, and the improvement of our condition for the future.

You cannot truly, Excellency, refuse to confess that complete anarchy prevails in the place for some time past, that all the signs of paralysis and dissolution everywhere appear and that the laws are not carried out, or only in exceptional circumstances, and then only in accordance with caprice and the interests of a few persons in each administrative centre. All this desperate condition proceeds from many causes, especially from the incomplete and unfinished state of the Organic Law, and from the violations which it has suffered from time to time, and which render it blank paper.

The people of Crete having been governed now for nine years in conformity with this law, has been convinced by experience that without its modification and completion upon broader and juster bases no improvement can be expected, the more so as, contrary to all the declarations of the Government about equality and the enjoyment of equal laws, the system of the division of the inhabitants into two opposite elements prevails, and this becomes on every occasion an obstacle to the progress and development of this civilized age. From such reasons, and reposing in our incontestable rights, we have been impelled to to-day's measure of meeting together,—a meeting which has for its base and origin the improvement of the place, the strengthening of public order, and respect for the quiet and safety of our Ottoman compatriots, with whom we desire to live together for the improvement of the place, obtaining the benefits, by harmony and true equality and justice, of a lasting peace. In fine, assuring your Excellency of the good intention of our meeting, we repeat our request to the Government to send as quickly as possible a Commission, knowing the language of the place, that by it the Government may hear and be informed of our just complaints, and of the material wants of the place, and so work out by its judgment the needful cure.

We entreat your Excellency that you will forward by the proper channel, and without loss of time, to the Imperial Government these presents. We hope that not only our request for the sending of a Commission will be favourably heard, but also that our manner of acting will not be misunderstood.

(Here follow 2,800 signatures.)

No. 364.

Mr. Ffrench to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 27, 1877.

MINISTRY for Foreign Affairs knows nothing of the facts contained in telegram from Her Majesty's Danube Commissioner forwarded by your Lordship yesterday. Count Andrassy has as yet received no answer from Russian Ambassador to his note referred to in Sir A. Buchanan's despatch No. 714 of 2nd instant, M. de Novikoff having no reply on the subject from his Government.

No. 365.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 28.)

(No. 417.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 27, 1877, 6·30 P.M.

GERMAN and Austrian Ambassadors have applied to Porte on behalf of Russia for permission to bring down from Upper Danube cargoes of timber for the purpose of constructing field ambulances in Bulgaria for the Russian sick and wounded. Porte has refused, suspecting that the timber may be used for other purposes, and has asked whether the other neutral Powers have joined in this request, which comes from Prince Gortchakow. Porte is willing to consent to the introduction of anything in the shape of bedding, clothing, medicines, and articles of that nature, but is naturally unwilling to give so great an advantage to its enemy as that required of it.

No. 366.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 28.)

(No. 418.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 27, 1877, 7·30 P.M.

KEMBALL telegraphs that Ismail Pasha is reported to have repulsed attack of Russian left wing, consisting of 20 battalions, 52 guns, and 9 regiments of cavalry. Porte states that Russians lost 600 men, and that the battle was a serious one.

No. 367.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September* 28, 1877.

GRAND DUKE PAUL, youngest son of Emperor, left Czarsko last evening by His Majesty's orders to join him at head-quarters.

No. 368.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, September* 28, 1877.

M. TRICOUPI informed me to-day that Greek Government intended *de facto* to remain at peace, but that they could not give formal engagements on the subject.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 369.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 29.)

(No. 233.)
My Lord, *Athens, September* 22, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Her Majesty's Consul at the Piræus, Mr. Merlin, informed me on the 20th instant that the following war material had just arrived and was being landed at that port from the British steamer "Prospero" from Antwerp, viz.:—

87 cases, containing 12 field-pieces and accessories.
200 cases, with 24 field-pieces and accessories.
170 cases field forges.
617 cases shells.
62 cases accessories for shells.
80 cases powder.
344 cases cartridges.
100 cases metallic cartridges.

I mentioned to M. Tricoupi yesterday that I had heard of the arrival of the Krupp guns, and he said that was only half the amount expected, and he told me that these guns were to be sent to the camps at Agrynion and Thebes. I also asked M. Tricoupi if there

was any truth in a report which had reached me that some of the reserve forces were shortly to be sent to their homes, but I regret to say that he informed me that there was no foundation for that report, that, on the contrary, the Government wanted more men (but not volunteers) to bring the forces, which now amounted to 27,000 men, up to 32,000 men.

I am afraid the Greek Government is continuing to pursue a most dangerous policy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 370.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 29.)

(No. 234. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, September 22, 1877.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 59 of the 3rd September, which was delivered to me yesterday by Mr. Vansittart, I have the honour to report that I have brought to the knowledge of the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs the substance of Server Pasha's telegrams which were communicated to your Lordship by Musurus Pasha on the 27th August last and on the 3rd September, and that I have also impressed upon his Excellency, in compliance with your Lordship's orders, the expediency of maintaining an attitude of strict and impartial neutrality, and I have further informed him that, as one of the Powers who have guaranteed the independence of the Greek Kingdom, and who have rendered themselves responsible for the Greek debt, Great Britain has a right to expect that King George's advisers will not be inclined by the desire of national aggrandizement to involve the country in a ruinous conflict.

The telegram which was communicated to your Lordship on the 3rd of September being very lengthy and of great importance, I thought it best to embody its substance in the form of a Memorandum, and to which I have added verbatim the latter part of your Lordship's despatch No. 59 to me, in order that there should be no misapprehension in M. Tricoupi's mind as to the nature of the communications made to the Government of Her Majesty by the Porte, or of the opinion of Her Majesty's Government as to the policy Greece should pursue towards Turkey.

I have left this statement with M. Tricoupi, telling him that I had no orders to leave a written paper with him, and that he must consider the communication as a verbal one, but that I had so acted to prevent misunderstanding. I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of my Memorandum to your Lordship.

M. Tricoupi answered that he did not think the complaints of Turkey were justly founded; that with regard to the volunteers coming to Greece, he said that was not an infraction of international law; that when Germany and France had wanted troops they had recalled their subjects from abroad; and with reference to armed bands, the Government had prevented their crossing their frontier, and was still doing so, and that the leaders of the band which had been formed in Thessaly and driven on to the Greek frontier were in the hands of justice, and he appealed to me to state if I knew of any bands at the present moment. I replied that I had just heard that a band had endeavoured to cross the frontiers near Agrynion. M. Tricoupi said it was the case, but that of the men forming that band some had deserted it, while others had been stopped; and with regard to the passage of Server Pasha's telegram which talked of striking at the root of the evil, he said he attached particular weight to it, and that he looked upon it as a menace and as a reason for increasing all the more their military forces. He said that Turkey wished to prevent Greece from exercising her just rights, and that with regard to the policy of Greece, it was as he had indicated already.

I remarked that, without going into details, I thought the general tone of public feeling in Greece, the talk of military preparations for the last year, and the increase of the military strength of the kingdom, had alarmed Turkey, and not without reason, and I expressed to him the hope that Greece would not go on augmenting her forces, and said that I felt convinced Turkey must be sincere in her wish to avoid further complications.

M. Tricoupi said that, if Turkey wished to avoid a collision with Greece, she should turn her attention to the manner in which she was now administering the Province of Thessaly, and he begged me particularly to call your Lordship's attention to this point, adding that this province was overrun with Bashi-Bazouks, who had lately made an attack upon the Greek Consulate at Larissa.

With regard to your Lordship's communication, he appeared vexed at its having been called forth at the instance of representations of the Porte.

I called his attention to the concluding part of your Lordship's despatch, in which I said your Lordship fully acknowledged the assurances given by his Excellency to Mr. Stuart, and I concluded by saying that I felt convinced that Her Majesty's Government was actuated by friendly feelings towards Greece and towards Turkey, and was solely animated by a desire of preventing a collision between the two States.

M. Tricoupi told me he should write himself to M. Gennadius on the subject. As I saw him this afternoon, and as the mail leaves at 6 o'clock, I am afraid I have laid the subject of a long conversation with his Excellency before your Lordship in a hurried and imperfect manner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 370.

Statement placed by Mr. Wyndham in M. Tricoupi's hands on the 22nd September, 1877.

MUSURUS PASHA communicated to Lord Derby on the 27th August a telegram complaining of inroads committed from Greece across the Turkish frontier, from Server Pasha. Lord Derby shortly afterwards received a despatch from Mr. Stuart, stating that the Greek Government entirely denied these accusations. Lord Derby informed Musurus Pasha of the fact, stating that he should be glad to learn the opinion of his Government on the assurances thus received before he proceeded to make any representation such as Server Pasha desired.

On the 3rd September, a further telegram was communicated by the Turkish Ambassador in London to Lord Derby, and his Lordship, after reading that telegram, said he was ready to bring the complaints of the Porte to the notice of the Greek Government.

The telegram in question is dated the 30th August, and the substance is as follows:—

"The Greek Government continues to give us assurances of its desire to cultivate friendly relations with us. The Imperial Government declares formally its sincere desire to do the same, and that it has no hostile intentions towards Greece. Unfortunately, acts do not correspond with the pacific assurances of the Greek Government. The bands which have crossed the frontiers have not yet been recalled, their leaders are unpunished, new bands are being formed, volunteers are being clandestinely recruited in large numbers amongst our populations, which constitutes a flagrant violation of international law; revolutionary committees are acting with ever-increasing energy, and the authorities, who are perfectly cognizant of their proceedings, do not make use of the power which they possess to repress them; while the official press in Greece does nothing to calm public opinion, which is excited by the unofficial organs of the press.

"So long as this state of affairs continues, the Imperial Government must consider the tranquillity of the Turkish provinces bordering on Greece as seriously menaced, and cannot close its eyes to the fact. Turkey being engaged in hostilities with a powerful enemy, she is most certainly not likely to provoke fresh complications; but when another Power is endeavouring to profit by this state of affairs, and is endeavouring to create insurrection, is it not the sacred duty of a Government to prevent the evil from increasing and to seek to stop it, not by half measures, but by striking at the very root?

"In submitting these remarks to Lord Derby, you will particularly dwell upon the latter point."

Lord Derby instructs me to impress upon you the expediency of maintaining an attitude of strict and impartial neutrality, and to state that, as one of the Powers who have guaranteed the independence of the Greek Kingdom, and who have rendered themselves responsible for the Greek Debt, Great Britain has a right to expect that King George's advisers will not be induced by the desire of national aggrandizement to involve the country in a ruinous conflict, and that Greek subjects will be restrained from provoking the Porte to measures of hostility by acts of unauthorized and private warfare. Her Majesty's Government have received with satisfaction the explanations and assurances on this subject offered by M. Tricoupi to Her Majesty's Ministers. They trust that there will be no want of good-will and energy on the part of the Greek Government in acting up to the liabilities which they have avowed.

END

No. 371.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 419.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, September 29, 1877.

GREEK Minister sent to tell me yesterday that the relations between Greece and Turkey were "très tendues;" that the Greek Government could not agree to demand of Porte for recall of the Greek Consul in Crete, and that no redress or satisfaction has been given by the Porte in many of the cases in which Greece has justly complained. On the other hand the Porte states that the band which entered Epirus, mentioned by Mr. Wyndham in his telegram of the 26th to your Lordship, was commanded by one Skaltcho Yani, who had been arrested by the Greek authorities and was afterwards allowed to escape. I have communicated substance of the telegram from Mr. Wyndham of yesterday, that Greece intended *de facto* to remain at peace, to Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, and am doing my utmost to prevent the Porte from taking any hasty measures; but there is still great irritation here against Greece, and Porte is apparently sending Albanian and other irregulars to the Greek frontiers, and making other preparations.

No. 372.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 420. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, September 29, 1877, 7·30 P.M.

THERE is an intrigue against Mehemet Ali Pasha, who is accused of not having shown sufficient activity, and an attempt will be made to get him recalled and replaced by Suleiman Pasha. This may lead to serious consequences. Lennox thinks that any rash attack upon Russians, who are in greater force than Turks, might end in a disaster, and greatly deprecates any interference with Mehemet Ali's plan, which appears now to be to fall back to strong positions on right of Lom, and to act for the present on the defensive.